

# HALESOWEN CHRONICLE



Thursday, September 13, 2012

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## Sting in tale

Giraffes happy to grasp the nettle at feeding time

Page 6



## Canal concern

Vandals give honeymoon couple rude awakening

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## Trophy time

Team are runners-up in cricket knockout contest

Page 39



## Jobs are at risk in review of hospital

CLEANING jobs at Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital are at risk as bosses look to save up to £2 million.

Interserve, which provides the cleaning services at the hospital, is carrying out the review of its 150 staff.

Bosses said the review could lead to redundancies but at this stage it is not known how many.

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust is looking to make the savings on its outlay to Private Finance Initiative (PFI) partners such as Interserve.

Trust chief executive Paula Clark said: "As part of all the work we are doing with the PFI partners we are looking at where we can make efficiencies."

But she added "cleanliness remains a priority" and she does not expect the standard of care for patients to be affected.

A statement by Interserve said: "We are working to improve service delivery at the hospital. As part of this process we are undergoing a thorough review with unions and our employees."

Hospital governor Steve Walto said while he understood cuts had to be made to protect front-line services he wanted assurances there would be no impact on hospital cleanliness.

● Rating – Page 2

## Crash death man named

A MAN killed in a car crash in Tipton has been named locally as Ahlak Rehman, from Dudley.

He was one of six teenagers believed to have been in a car which struck a lamp post and wall early on Monday.

The 19-year-old died in hospital after being flung out of the blue Vauxhall Corsa car, which crashed in Dudley Port Road, Tipton, at 12.40am. Friends of Mr Rehman, a former pupil of Castle High School, Dudley, placed dozens of floral tributes at the scene of the crash. Five teenagers have been arrested bailed.

# TOWN COULD GET A WALK OF FAME

by Adam Burling

A "WALK of fame" could be built to honour well-known figures from Halesowen's past and present under new plans to celebrate the town's heritage. Names would be inscribed into paving stones in the town centre.

The idea has been inspired by the success of the Walk of Stars in Birmingham's Broad Street, which features celebrities such as Jasper Carrot and Ozzy Osbourne.

Poet William Shenstone, who developed The Leasowes beauty spot, industrialist Walter Somers, and Halesowen Athletics Club founder Jack Price are among the names being suggested for the town feature. Ward councillor Ken Turner is drawing up the proposals, which are set to go before councillors at Halesowen Area Committee next month.

The paving stones would be laid between Peckingham Street and Somers Square. The cost has not yet been calculated but Councillor Turner hopes the sum would come from Dudley Council funds.

He said: "We have a fantastic heritage in Halesowen and we need to do something to celebrate it."

"This way, future generations will be able to see the great names that have come from the town and realise that Halesowen is the jewel in the crown of the Black Country."

Other names being put forward are writer and composer Brett Young, famed for the Mercian series of novels in the 1920s and 30s, and legendary comic Tommy Mundon, who still lives in the town.

### Honour

There could even be an honour for former Manchester United midfielder Lee Sharpe, who was born in Halesowen.

Councillor Turner says he was inspired after getting involved in the Earls Gymnastics Club's campaign to raise cash for a new site after Kristian Thomas' bronze medal success at London 2012.

He has also been working with Halesowen Athletics and Cycling Club, which has produced Olympic and Paralympic stars such as Jess Varnish and Helen Scott – and says Jack Price, who started the club 1922, deserves to be recognised.

If approved by Halesowen Area Committee, the plans would then go before the rest of the council in the coming months.

The Birmingham Walk of Stars is said to have brought millions of pounds of tourism to the city, with the unveiling of Ozzy Osbourne's honour generating £1.7 million alone.

## Jordanne to join in big event



Bronze medalist's Lucy Shuker, left, and Jordanne Whiley celebrate with their medals from the women's doubles wheelchair tennis

HALESOWEN'S paralympic medal winner Jordanne Whiley will be given a grand welcome when she returns to her home town.

The 20-year-old Paralympian and her doubles partner Lucy Shuker beat tough competition from Thailand's Sakthorn Khanthasit and Ratana Techamaneewat to secure the medal in the wheelchair tennis doubles.

Their gold medal dreams had been ended at the hands of Dutch competitors Aniek van Koot and Jiske Griffioen.

But the British duo rallied back to get the bronze – despite losing the first set and slipping to a 3-0 deficit and match point in the second. The star will be back in Halesowen on Sunday when she is among the guests of honour at the town's fun run.

She will hand out medals alongside Helen Scott, who won silver and bronze medals at the Paralympics, and Olympian Jess Varnish. Both are members of the town's cycling club.

Gymnast Kristian Thomas, who also won a bronze at the Olympics, will attend the event which is expected to attract up to 500 runners. The event has been organised by Halesowen and Rowley Regis Rotary Club and will raise money for Birmingham Children's Hospital, the Midlands Air Ambulance and MacMillan Cancer Support.

It will be held at Somers Square in the town from 9.30am.

Jordanne said she was delighted by the win. "It was such hard work and it's such a relief," she said. "During the morning I was still a bit down and at a set and 3-0 down I knew I needed to snap out of it and I'm so proud of myself that I did."

"I actually thought about that on court and I thought if I go home without a medal how will I feel? I didn't like the feeling so I turned it around. There wasn't a doubt in my mind that we weren't going to win it, even at match point."

"The crowd was amazing and all my friends and family were there, my boyfriend and my coaches and to share that with them was special."

● Cheers – Page 40

## Housing office is to close in move

HALESOWEN'S housing office will close under plans to move staff to the town's library along with the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Front counter workers at the office in The Queensway will relocate to the town's library, where CAB staff will also be based.

The library will undergo a £50,000 revamp as part of the move. Other housing staff will be based in offices at The Waterfront in Brierley Hill.

In total 14 posts will move to the Waterfront and two jobs going to the library.

The workers will be moved when the current office closes when the lease runs out in January next year. It comes after housing office staff in Brierley Hill and Stourbridge were rehomed at the town's libraries over the last two years. The CAB will move from its premises in Summer Hill.

A report by Dudley Council housing chief Councillor Khurshid Ahmed says: "Discussions with the CAB have concluded that co-location would be advantageous to residents and they would also want to relocate to the library."

## Stray horses action plan

AN action plan to tackle the problem of stray and illegally grazing horses in Dudley is to be given a green light after a year-long trial proved successful.

Dudley Council launched new measures in an attempt to control the number of horses left to wander around borough streets following a surge in complaints last year.

They have proved so successful the authority is now set to adopt them permanently.

Under the scheme, the council, in partnership with West Midlands Police, will continue to remove all stray horses reported on or near the highway.

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## NEWS

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## Rating is up as superbug cases fall

DUDLEY'S Russells Hall Hospital, which 12 months ago faced a sharp rise in the number of patients getting superbug c.diff, is to be awarded an improved rating as infection numbers continue to fall, bosses claim.

The hospital was given an amber-red rating earlier this year by Monitor, the regulator of Foundation Trusts, because of the high number of cases since last April.

But the latest assessment by Dudley health trust chiefs indicates a green rating for governance – the highest available.

The rating from Monitor focusing on infection risk has already improved from amber-red to amber-green following a 60 per cent drop in the number of patients with c.diff.

Trust governors were told at a meeting last week that it is also expected to further improve in the

coming months. Bosses have bought two hydrogen peroxide vapour machines – fogging machines – at a cost of £69,000 to help reduce the spread of infections.

The number of cases has fallen from 38 in the first quarter of the 2011/12 financial year to 14 in the first quarter of 2012/13.

There have been no cases of deadly superbug MRSA in the last 15 months. Director of nursing

Denise McMahon told the meeting: "The rise in cases of c.diff last year was not an outbreak – it would have been easier in a way if it was, as we would have known what to do to stop it."

"The infections were not being passed from person to person so it was difficult to explain the increase. But we set up a team to forensically examine what we were doing with infection control."

## Sikh centre caught up in violence is reopened

A COMMUNITY centre in Dudley which closed more than a year ago after a protest erupted into violence has finally reopened.

More than £30,000 damage was caused at the Sikh Cultural Centre, Wellington Road, last May when 200 people complained about meat and alcohol being served at a private function. The demonstration was organised by UK

## A tribute to mettle of ladies

THE pioneering work of a formidable group of Black Country women "The Iron Ladies of Cradley Heath" will be honoured at an event in October.

The tribute will be held at Dudley's Black Country Living Museum on October 20.

In 1910 the Women Chainmakers of Cradley Heath won a fight to establish the right to a fair wage following a bitter dispute.

The employers and unions agreed to a minimum wage of two-and-a-half pence an hour – an amount which equaled a 150 per cent pay increase for the poorest of workers.

Andrew Lovett, director and chief executive of the Black Country Living Museum said: "We are delighted once again to commemorate the courageous actions of a group of women from Cradley Heath, who marched for better pay and shaped industrial relations in Britain."

The museum will relive the story of the women through street performance and re-enactment from Fizz-zog Productions and Tête-à-Tête theatre group.

Sangat, which protests against code-breaking temples.

Missiles, including plant pots were thrown leaving a police officer injured during the incident.

Bosses then closed the facility over concerns it could be targeted again.

But a decision was made to work towards reopening the venue and it welcomed back visitors on Saturday night.

Temple trustee Jaz Kang said: "We're very pleased."

"It's a substantial resource and we're delighted it is back open to the local community."

There was a police presence around the venue on to tackle any potential trouble but none materialised.

## Trustees

The trustee said the community centre was targeted because protesters wrongly assumed the facility was linked with the nearby temple.

This was because some of the trustees were also trustees of the Gurdwara Guru Nanak Singh Sabha which is next door.

But he said over the past 15 months a new board had been set up which made it clear there was no connection.

"That centre had been run successfully for 20 years and the decision was taken that we should not be bullied into closing a community facility," said Mr Kang.

Police were called to the Sikh Cultural Centre during the trouble and a force helicopter was scrambled to monitor the melee.

## Service will honour The Few



The Mayor meets with veterans of the Battle of Britain at Ednam Road cenotaph

PILOTS who fought in the Battle of Britain are to be honoured with a special service at St Thomas and St Luke's church on Sunday followed by a parade in the centre of Dudley.

A parade featuring cadets from the borough's training corps will march at 11 am from Priory Road down towards the church where the service will be held at 11.30 am.

After the service the parade will continue with a march past Council House in Priory Road where the Mayor and a representative from RAF Cosford will receive a salute.

It will then continue on to the cenotaph in Ednam Road where wreaths will be laid in memory of those who gave their lives more than 70 years ago.

Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Melvyn Mottram, said: "This is an ideal opportunity to come out and show your support for the armed forces, and remember the huge sacrifices these people made for us in the Battle of Britain." The RAF Association will also hold its annual Battle of Britain service at Mary Stevens Park, Stourbridge, on the same day at 11 am.

## Council to consider fate of alleyway

COUNCIL officers have vowed to explore what measures can be taken to prevent further tragedies following the murder of popular Sedgley man Shane Watson.

Family and friends of the 23-year-old have submitted a 3,000-signature petition calling for the alleyway off Springfield Grove, Sedgley, to be closed.

Mr Watson died of his injuries after being attacked in the alleyway, which is near to his home, following a night out on July 28.

The community claims drug users congregate in the passage and say that residents' complaints have been ignored for years.

Dudley Council has confirmed it has received the document and said officers were now in discussion with police about what could be done.

Councillor Judy Foster, said: "All of the issues have to be thoroughly explored and we therefore do not anticipate any decisions being made imminently."

The family of Mr Watson immediately called for the alleyway closure following his death.

They say it is a magnet for drug users and anti-social behaviour.

## Man set fire to himself

A MAN died from severe burns after dousing himself with flammable liquid and setting fire to himself, an inquest heard.

Mohammed Banaras had gone into the garden of his home, in Worcester Road, Dudley, after returning home from a mosque on November 28 last year.

Dudley Coroners Court heard the 65-year-old was taken to Birmingham's Queen Elizabeth Hospital but later died. Coroner Robin Balmain recorded a narrative verdict that he died by igniting an inflammable liquid applied by himself.

## Plans for pub

PLANS to convert a Coseley pub into apartments have been submitted to planners. The Hop and Barleycorn, in Mason Street, will be turned into four two-storey flats.

Dudley Council will decide on the designs by Dudley Estates Ltd, of West Bromwich, later this year.

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## Medic to take trip to track

A TEAM taking a Del Boy-style Reliant Robin round a famous grand prix track have recruited a Halesowen paramedic for their European road trip.

Chris Davies is preparing to tackle the 1,100-mile journey to Germany's Nurburgring to support Wolverhampton's Compton Hospice.

He will be joined by Helen Campbell, aged 39, from Halesowen, who has been with West Midlands Ambulance Service for eight years and is an advanced paramedic in the town.

Mr Davies came up with the idea during a session in the pub with his friends Chris Barnett - who will be his "co-pilot" on the trip - and Neil Gantley, who is taking along a Citroen 2CV as a support vehicle.

Mr Davies, aged 34, hopes he will not have to use his mechanical skills on the three-wheeler after they set off on September 28. They will take the vehicles on a ferry across the North Sea to Holland before heading to the race track in the village of Nurburg, western Germany. Miss Campbell said: "I recently lost my best friend to cancer. She was 39 and left behind her one year old son."

## Views call on services

VIEWES are being sought on services for children with disabilities in Worcestershire.

Services run by Worcestershire County Council include short break activities such as after-school clubs, weekend activities, summer play schemes and respite care.

The authority also runs a range of support services.

The council wants the views of parents and carers and their experiences.

The consultation runs until September 28. Visit [worcestershire.gov.uk/haveyoursay](http://worcestershire.gov.uk/haveyoursay)

## Petition taken in

AN MP has delivered a petition to Number 10 Downing Street calling for greater protection for youngsters on the internet.

Mark Garnier, MP for Wyre Forest, has taken part in a cross-party Parliamentary inquiry into online child protection, which concluded Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and the Government need to do more.

# Villagers planning a protest in homes row

ANGRY villagers near Stourbridge will stage a demonstration and have threatened to boycott events at Lord Cobham's manor house in protest over controversial plans to build nearly 200 new homes on his land.

More than 100 people gathered at Hagley Free Church last week to air their views on proposals by Cala Homes to build properties and offices on land owned by Lord Cobham.

Residents agreed a protest should be staged in the village and at Hagley Hall to show the depth of opposition. The site

is part of the 350-acre hall estate and is bordered by the A456 Kidderminster Road and the A491 Stourbridge Road.

Last week's meeting, staged by Hagley and Clent parish councils, heard 4,300 leaflets had been delivered across the area by Hagley Residents Action Group.

And 180 individual objections have already been lodged with Bromsgrove District Council and a petition has been signed by 1,000 people.

As part of the protest, residents plan to wave placards on the A456 traffic

island in a demonstration. A date has still to be set for the action. Letters will also be sent to the district council opposing the plans and residents plan to boycott events at the hall.

Residents say the 175 new homes would lead to traffic congestion and stretch schools and the village surgery beyond breaking point.

Plans to add an access road to the A456 roundabout were also criticised.

Carolyn Williams, aged 65, of Brookland Road, said: "There is already a problem with traffic congestion in the

village and this will only make the situation worse. The schools are already full and the surgery cannot take on so many extra patients.

"It will take the village past breaking point," she added.

Richard Ward, 67, of Brookland Road, said: "There is already an issue with water collecting at the bottom of Worcester Street in heavy storms."

Hagley Residents Action Group member Joy Corbett said: "Many residents said they would be in favour of a demonstration."

# Family jewellers aiming for £1m expansion of stores

A FAMILY-owned jewellers, which has traded in the region for more than a century, is set for a £1 million expansion which will increase its number of stores in the Midlands.

by Andrew Turton

T H Baker, which was established in 1888, will open three new shops, adding to its growing network of jewellery outlets based across the country.

The company has branches in Walsall, Halesowen, Kidderminster, the Merry Hill shopping centre and Stourbridge and has also been growing its Pandora range, which has an outlet in Birmingham's Bullring.

Thomas Henry Baker's latest store, in Stratford-upon-Avon, takes the firm's network of stores to 19, staffed by 230 employees.

The business was founded on October 6, 1888 by watchmaker and jeweller Thomas Henry Baker. He opened the company's first store, in Brierley Hill, which is still going.

Chief executive, Andrew Higgs, said everyone was pleased to have secured the finance to enable the business to expand.

"We are very proud of our heritage and our success is

testimony to the values set out by our great-great-grandfather when he first established the business which was around offering great service and value," he said.

"We have continued to evolve the business with the introduction of the Pandora concept stores and some of our online ventures such as the Jewel Hut."

## Financial

Thomas Henry Baker's daughter Phillis and her husband, Frank Higgs, bought the business in 1915 - steering it through the financial difficulties of the First World War.

Two further branches were opened in Walsall and Wolverhampton between 1945 and 1952. Recent additions are Burton-on-Trent and Telford.

Alan Higgs, great grandson of Thomas Henry Baker, joined as appointed managing director in 1987.

## Officers in hunt to find missing death crash bike

POLICE investigating the death of a motorcyclist in Stourport are still hunting for the bike he was riding when the crash happened. Kieran Joseph O'Sullivan, aged 21, who lived in the town, lost control of the vehicle near to the Brinton Arms pub in Bewdley Road on August 13.

He suffered a serious head injury and was confirmed dead at the scene by paramedics. Police have been trying to trace the bike after it was removed from the scene before officers arrived. West Mercia Police spokesman Dylan Evans said: "There is still no trace of the missing bike."

It is believed to be red and black. Call police on 101 with information about the bike.



Olympic cyclist Jess Varnish says she is already back in training after the Games

## Jess is back in training

OLYMPIC cyclist Jess Varnish has put her Olympic heartbreak behind her and revealed she is already back in training looking to future events.

The 21-year-old was in Dudley last week to meet staff from a social housing partnership as they reached the half-way mark on a 120-mile cycling challenge across the Midlands.

Jess, a member of Halesowen Cycling Club, travelled from Manchester to greet workers from Matrix Housing Partnership while doing their run.

She took part in a circuit with the four-man team, who are aiming to raise £5,000 for charity Shelter which cares for homeless people.

Jess, originally from Bromsgrove, said she was delighted to be asked along to meet the fundraisers who completed their journey from Lichfield to Evesham.

Jess said: "I have been back in training for the past two weeks."

Chairman of Matrix Mike Pritty, one of the fundraisers, said: "We are very grateful to Jess taking the time out of her busy schedule."

## NEWS in brief

### Decision on bid for housing due

CONTROVERSIAL plans for more than 40 new homes in a village near Kidderminster is to be decided after planners deferred a decision last month to see the site for themselves.

Barratt West Midlands wants to build 33 houses, seven bungalows and two flats on the former Blake-down Nurseries site, in Belbroughton Road, Blakedown.

The application has sparked 21 letters of objection. A decision was due on September 11.

### Campaign targets safety at schools

A NEW campaign has been launched urging drivers in Wyre Forest to take care near schools.

Worcestershire County Council is reminding drivers that "Stop means Stop" when staff are helping pupils cross roads.

Seven-year-old Tom Roberts has designed a poster, which will be placed near schools across the county.

The Great Witley Primary School pupil decided to focus on the work of the School Crossing Patrol service.

### Firms turn out at breakfast event

MORE than 110 delegates turned out for an event at Worcestershire County Cricket Club.

Find it in worcestershire's latest breakfast meeting saw dozens of county companies take part in meetings with the cricket club, all keen to attract work on its new multi-million pound conference centre development.

### Stolen van found left and burned

THIEVES stole the keys to a van in Bewdley and then abandoned the vehicle later found on fire near Stourport.

Police have now issued an appeal for witnesses.

Thieves struck at a property in Shaw Hedge Road, Bewdley. Anyone with information can call police on 0300 333 3000, quoting 7705 280812.

### Paralympics day

STAFF and customers at Sainsbury's in Ambicote took part in activities to celebrate the Paralympics. It was part of a day of events at stores across the country.

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## NEWS

## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



SO FAREWELL, Max Bygraves. He was a link with that curious post-war age of innocence when a pop star could make a record about a pink toothbrush and a blue toothbrush, and the rest of us would rush out to buy it. How times change.

□□□□□□□□

**WORST** job of the Cabinet reshuffle, as the petrol bombs and rubber bullets fly yet again, is surely that of Northern Ireland Secretary, awarded to the luckless Theresa Villiers. It must be like taking over a huge, dysfunctional kindergarten.

□□□□□□□□

A READER reflects on that historic moment in 1969 when the late, great Neil Armstrong planted the American flag on the moon. He wonders whether this was the only time in history that anyone has raised the Stars and Stripes outside the United States without lots of people getting killed.

□□□□□□□□

**THE** big investment banks report that they are obliged to pay graduates up to £45,000 a year to lure them into an industry which has such a bad name. But why are they recruiting graduates at all? Capitalism follows a cycle of rising greed followed by collapse. In the banking game, long memories are a great asset because the more people who remember the agonies of the last crash, the better are the chances of avoiding the next one. We need a law banning investment banks from recruiting anyone under 70.

□□□□□□□□

AND so, I guess, must be constantly referred to as brave, heroic, courageous or plucky. Most paralympians are simply hard-working and determined to make the best of a bad deal. And the disabled soldiers in the GB team will tell you, as soldiers throughout history have told us, that the real heroes are their mates who never came home.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# BCLM shedding 70 jobs over weather and cuts

**THE** Black Country Living Museum, Dudley plans to shed up to 70 jobs and close two days a week in the winter following funding cuts and a slump in numbers visiting the attraction.

The museum says it has suffered the "most appalling summer" due to the weather.

Chief executive Andrew Lovett said visitor numbers were down up to 15 per cent.

The museum, which employs 239, will close twice a week between November and Easter under plans to save £250,000 a year.

It was recently stripped of a £70,000 a year grant from Dudley Council.

The museum receives 67,000 students on educational visits every year.

## Interactive

Mr Lovett said he wanted the museum to offer a "deeper, more interactive engagement with children and students which is more challenging and more relevant to the curriculum" but which will require a much smaller team of staff.

The museum is 98 per cent self-funded.

Mr Lovett said: "We owe it to the children and students that visit, as well as those that had the foresight to create this remarkable museum, to deliver the best possible educational services.

"These changes have the

potential to put us at the forefront of heritage education in the UK. At the same time, in the face of continuing difficult economic conditions and frankly, the most appalling summer for outdoor visitor attractions, we must adapt by reducing costs, as well making sure we are generating as much revenue as we possibly can."

The 26-acre site boasts one of the largest open-air museums in the UK.

Up to 70 posts are likely to be affected including 40 casual staff working as costumed guides.

One of the 28 contracted costumed demonstrators is expected to be made redundant. The rest of the losses will come from contracted staff, including administrative roles.

Mr Lovett said he was intending to revamp the scheme for schools.

But the move is likely to mean schools will not be taken around by a guide. Dudley Council's funding cut does not come into effect until next year.

Mr Lovett said: "I won't have a bad word said against them."



The Black Country Living Museum plans to cut jobs and its opening hours. Its chief executive ANDREW LOVETT explains why

## What is the museum doing?

The museum is consulting with its staff about proposals concerned with enhancing the way the museum provides services for educational groups, reducing its winter opening by two days per week between November and Easter, taking steps to improve the management and results of its commercial operations and making changes to reduce management costs.

## Why is the museum bringing forward these proposals?

The museum welcomes 67,000 pupils and students a year. It wants to provide educational services that reflect the quality and national significance of its recently designated collections.

The museum wants to match the best museums in the country by offering a deeper, more interactive engagement with children and students which is more challenging and relevant to the curriculum. This

will require a much smaller and more highly-trained team. At the same time, and in common with many organisations in the public and private sectors, the museum has seen a drop in its revenues during difficult economic times.

As an outdoor visitor attraction, this has been compounded by the appalling weather over the last five months. And although only a relatively small proportion, funding from Dudley Council is also being withdrawn in 2013. To reduce costs, while maximising visitor attendance, it is proposed that the museum reduce its opening times.

It is also proposed that costumed 'positions', numbering 28, are prioritised with a view to making a reduction of one.

It also proposes to reduce management costs and improve commercial trading results.

## How much does the museum cost to run?

The current annual funding requirement of the museum is £3,297m per year.

## How much will these proposals save?

If implemented in full these proposals will reduce costs by around £250,000.

## How many staff will potentially be affected?

If these proposals are implemented in full and depending on how the staff affected might be resettled into different or revised roles, up to 70 people might be affected, of which approximately 40 would be the current casual team of costumed guides.

## What timescale is attached to the proposals?

Over a period of at least 30 days, the museum is now undertaking consultations with its staff and staff representatives. Any changes will be introduced as soon as possible following consultation.

## Will the museum's programme of winter events be affected by the proposals?

No. All winter events will go ahead, and visitors should not notice any change in what the museum has to offer. Tickets for the winter events are now on sale.

# Teenager owns up to attack in street

A 16-YEAR-OLD has admitted an attack that left an Oldbury teenager fighting for his life in hospital.

Conor Southall was left with brain damage, which has left him struggling to walk and talk when tired, after being hit by a single punch on June 15.

At Dudley Youth Court the defendant, who cannot be named for legal reasons, pleaded guilty to unlawfully and maliciously causing grievous bodily harm.

The court heard how the victim, who is also 16, was on the way home with a friend in Halesowen when he spotted three teenagers including the defendant on the other side of the road.

The defendant walked across the road and punched the victim in the face, the court heard.

The blow from the defendant knocked him out, said Mrs Sukhi Rai, prosecuting. Mr Shabeer Qureshi, defending, said the defendant was "wracked with guilt". The case was adjourned.

## Plan for lockers

DOZENS of lockers at Dudley's three main leisure centres are to be replaced at a cost of £114,000.

They are used in the pools at the centres in Dudley, Halesowen and Stourbridge.

A report, before Dudley Council says they need of replacing after five years.



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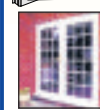
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## Shoplifter breached sentence

A WOMAN who had repeatedly breached suspended prison sentences by shoplifting was jailed for nine months after a judge told her she had used up her last chance.

Natalie Hancox, aged 30, admitted stealing electrical plug sets worth £143 from B&Q in Mucklow Hill, Halesowen.

The May 20 offence put her in breach of a suspended jail term imposed by Worcester Crown Court.

Judge John Maxwell said she had breached suspended jail sentences three times before.

"I am sorry to tell you that your chances have now run out," he added.

Hancox, of Bristol Road South, Birmingham, was jailed for three months for breaching the two most recent suspended sentences and for six months, to run consecutively, for the theft.

## Traders call for Jubilee

BUSINESSES and retailers are being invited to join in Bewdley Festival's silver jubilee celebrations.

Around 5,000 people are expected to attend October's event and organisers are appealing for shops and firms to make the most of the time.

Businesses will receive a leaflet inviting them to create offers, and to join in a window dressing contest to brighten the town, from October 5 to 14. Visit [www.bewdleyfestival.org.uk](http://www.bewdleyfestival.org.uk).

# Gym on fundraising mission as it looks for a new home



Gymnast Kristian Thomas

A FUNDRAISING drive is being launched to find a new home for the gym which set Olympic star Kristian Thomas on his road to glory – as bosses have earmarked a potential site.

The Earls Gymnastics Club, Halesowen wants to raise £500,000 to find a 10,000 sq ft base. The club, where the London 2012 bronze medallist trains every week, is struggling to make ends meet.

It has nearly 400 youngsters on the waiting list as the current premises at the Earls High School in Furnace Lane are too small.

The former Sons of Rest building in Huntingtree Road has been singled out as a suitable site which could be built on and extended.

The campaign is being run by ward councillor Ken Turner, who will lead talks with Dudley Council in the coming weeks.

Just two weeks ago the club secured a £10,000 grant from the authority to pay for outdated equipment to be replaced.

Since then another £4,000 of donations have flooded in from residents and businesses.

The club is struggling to pay its £28,500 a year rent so it is hoped buying a new site would secure its future.

Club chairman John Caulwell said: "It would be great to find new premises and we are grateful for all the help we can get."

Five coaches have already been laid off this year as the £100,000-a-year running costs are paid solely from membership fees as the club receives no other grants from the council or sports bodies.

Kristian, aged 23, of Wednesfield, helped win Great Britain's first medal in the team event for a century when they grabbed bronze at London 2012.

## Glass Cone tearooms reopen



Service with a smile from Donna Bosworth, James Shields and Terri Clements, who are new tenants at the tea rooms at Red House Glass Cone, Wordsley

NEW tenants at Wordsley's Red House Glass Cone have reopened its tea rooms, turning the building back into a period café.

The waterside tea rooms reopened at the start of the month and are open daily from 10am to 4pm.

Dudley Councillor Tracy Wood, said: "It's fantastic to have the tea rooms open again. This is a great addition to the craft tenants based at the cone and makes it a really lovely venue for a day out, both for visitors to the area and also for local residents."

It is hoped the reopening of the tea room will boost the number of visitors to the cone.

The tenants include a ceramicist, clockmaker, artist and picture framer, glass engraver, glass lampworker and a fused glass artist.

## NEWS in brief

### Collie is injured by house burglar

A DOG was left badly injured after being attacked by a burglar when the animal tried to defend its owner's property.

Police are appealing for witnesses and information after the raid, in Hanbury Road, Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove on September 2.

Intruders broke into the house between 5.15pm and 7.15pm and stole cash taken from a purse.

Witnesses should call DC Adrian Smith on the non-emergency number 101, quoting incident 611-S-020912.

### Two are charged after raiding shop

A 19-YEAR-OLD man and a boy of 16 have been charged with a burglary at WH Smith in Kidderminster town centre.

They were arrested when police responded to an alarm at the store in Vicar Street at 9.15pm on Sunday.

Both have been charged with burglary and stealing an MP4 box and DVD cases. The 19-year-old has also been charged with burgling a home in Kidderminster.

### Recycling firm to send in proposals

THE company behind a proposed waste recycling plant for Brierley Hill will be submitting plans soon.

Clean Power says the plant, which would be built on disused land off Moor Street, would create 30 jobs.

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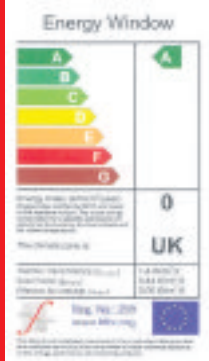
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# NEWS

## Mother gets suspended term for £100,000 fraud

A MOTHER-of-three claimed more than £100,000 in benefits over nine years after failing to tell the authorities her partner was living at the same address, a court heard.

Alice Gough received a total of £101,198 in income support, housing and council tax benefit, Wolverhampton Crown Court was told yesterday.

The 39-year-old, who is expecting another child next year, did not inform the authorities she was living with her partner during the period. She claimed income support between March 28, 2002 and June 23, 2011.

There were claims for housing and council tax benefit between April, 2004 and June, 2011, the court was told.

Gough, of Marigold Crescent, Dudley, was given a 12-month jail term suspended for 24 months and ordered to carry out 100 hours unpaid work. She was also placed under supervision.

Judge Helen Hughes said there "may be criticism for being lenient" but she had taken into account Gough was the primary carer of her three children with another one on the way. Gough, who works as a part-time carer, pleaded guilty to two charges of dishonestly failing to notify a change in circumstances at a hearing on August 9 - when she had been due to stand trial.

Miss Laura Culley, prosecuting, said investigations had revealed she and her partner had put down the same address when registering the children.

Mr Andrew Wallace, defending, said: "She is of previous good character and is the primary carer for her children."

## Meal has a sting in the tale



Senior keeper Laura Robbins feeds the rare Rothschild giraffes nettles

CHEWING on nettles may sound painful but giraffes at Dudley Zoo cannot get enough of them.

Rare Rothschild giraffes, nine-year-old male Kubwa, eight-year-old female Mia, and younger female, Josie, aged three, are enjoying generous servings of fresh nettles.

They are mixed up with their regular meals of lucerne - a high protein feed

which the animals eat as a staple diet. Giraffes have a reinforced mouth and tongue so are not stung by the plants.

Assistant curator Richard Brown said nettles were a very healthy food for the giraffes, as the plant has a high concentration of vitamin C.

He said: "The giraffes really enjoy eating nettles, it is one of their favourite foods."

## Bookies revamp planned

A BOOKIES in Stourbridge has revealed plans to refurbish its High Street shop.

William Hill has applied for permission to install a new shopfront and make alterations to the interior. The work will include fitting disabled toilets.

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## LETTERS

# Town looks dirty and neglected

FURTHER to the letter concerning the very poor state of some of the buildings in Dudley town, in particular the Co-op building, I would like to add that many shop fronts and other premises are filthy dirty, mostly near pavement level.

This applies to both occupied and empty premises with the empty Millets shop a positive health hazard.

Also, the pavements are filthy dirty and covered with stale cigarette ends. Weeds also abound and the raised concrete flower beds are dreadful.

Why isn't the council demanding

better standards? According to national statistics Dudley is the worst medium sized town in the country for empty shops.

How can new shop owners be attracted to a dirty neglected town?

All we keep being told is what the council intends to do when it secures funding.

Well, how about cleaning and smartening up what we've already got! Apparently nine council bosses are on a salary of more than £100,000 a year, so why is Dudley in this state?

Also, it's not only the town that's

neglected. For instance, the rusty dreadful state of the railings around the borough cemetery at Queen's Cross must also make it the worst in the country. The cemetery itself is very well kept, so why this neglect?

Local councillors need to be more pro-active because compared with pristine flower-bedded Stourbridge, the state of Dudley, which was recently voted the capital of the Black Country, is unacceptable to all residents, shoppers and visitors alike.

M GILL  
Marmion Grove, Dudley

## Thanks to Phyllis for wonderful memorial

RE: ROYAL Navy Memorial at National Memorial Arboretum.

I wish to say many thanks to Phyllis Coyle for the wonderful memorial to her late husband and all those who served on the convoys to Russia in the Second World War, recently unveiled at Alrewas.

My father, Len Auckland, served on those as a gunner and was sunk twice, the last time spending some seven days in a life boat and ending up in a Russian hospital suffering from frost bite.

My father died in 1978, but we will never know the extreme conditions he and the others who served had to face.

I will be going in the very near future to see the memorial and would thank Mrs Coyle again for the provision of such a tribute to those brave men.

GINA COWLEY  
William Kerr Road  
Tipton

## LETTERS to the Editor

## POST

Halesowen Chronicle,  
Chronicle Editorial, 51-53  
Queen Street, Wolverhampton  
WV1 1ES

Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number of the writer. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

## E-MAIL

Dudley.chrons@  
expressandstar.co.uk

## Stay in hospital was made very pleasant

I WOULD like to say how pleased and happy I was after a recent stay in the Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley.

Although I live some distance away in Shropshire, Dudley Group of Hospitals is my hospital of choice because of its outstanding and friendly service, excellent medical care, and all round top class performance. I had to undergo some tricky plastic surgery on my nose, and throughout my stay, the care and attention I received from nurses, registrars, surgeon, anaesthetist and administrative staff was top class.

The hospital is clean, well-run and efficient, and possesses an enviable atmosphere of calm and peace. I am nearly always seen at Russells Hall or Corbett on or before my appointment time, with the result that I actually look forward to my hospital visits.

The people of Dudley and district are lucky to have a hospital such as they do, and perhaps the rest of the NHS could take a lesson from the Dudley Group of Hospitals on how to run a top class health service.

VAUGHAN PATERSON  
Harley Drive  
Shrewsbury

## Capitalism will always come out as the best

ON August 30, Kevin Wilcox wrote about the collapse of capitalism.

It will never completely collapse, capitalism (free enterprise) will always be with us, it's not perfect but it works.

Look at communism, it enslaves the people, 20 million Russians were murdered or were starved to death by the state.

Then there is China, 30 million people were murdered or starved to death by the state and don't try and tell me how good China is doing under communism.

The reason China is doing so well is since Chairman Mao died, the shackles of communism have over the years been relaxed and the hard-working Chinese have shown what can be done without the shackles of communism. Free enterprise will always come out on top.

GAIL ROBERTSON  
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## NEWS

# Care trust reports £5.9m surplus before handover

DUDLEY Primary Care Trust has reported a healthy £5.9 million surplus as it prepares to hand over management of the borough's healthcare.

Doctors on the Clinical Commissioning Group will take over the purse strings in April. But Gill Cooper, chairman of the Black Country Cluster, speaking at the trust's final annual meeting, warned of "huge challenges" ahead.

She said the financial challenges facing the NHS were greater than ever before and tough decisions would be necessary.

"There will be very difficult decisions to make about what we can provide and what we cannot provide," Ms Cooper said.

Dr Jas Rathore, clinical executive for Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group, said among the issues to be tackled was the nine-year gap in life expectancy between the most deprived and most affluent areas.

Finance director James Green told how a total of £9.7 million had been saved through a variety of schemes by the former Dudley PCT during the year, including £2.7m by cutting management costs and £1.7m through better prescribing of drugs.

Rob Bacon, chief executive of the Black Country Cluster, said challenges for the CCG included a continued need for efficiency, while at the same time grasping advances in medical care, such as telehealth.

"They've got huge challenges ahead of them, with an ageing population, increasing numbers with long-term conditions and more people with multiple health issues," he said.

## Mark has wright stuff



New wheelwright apprentice Mark Clements is given a turn by Ced Lewis

A VETERAN wheelwright who is one of the few to still practice the ancient tradition has found a new apprentice to help keep the craft alive for future generations.

Ced Lewis, aged 83, from Penn, Wolverhampton, has been volunteering at Worcestershire County Museum, Hartlebury near Kidder-

minster for more than 20 years.

But after celebrating his 83rd birthday in February, he decided it was the right time to find an apprentice to work beside him to learn the craft.

He took on Mark Clements, aged 51, of Lickey Hills, after receiving 10 applications.

## Parking charges review

PARKING charges at council-owned car parks in Dudley are being reviewed with leaders warning the prices could go up, as well as down.

Ahead of next year's budget, officers at Dudley Council are looking into the price of parking in the borough.

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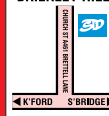
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## NEWS

# Gang of youths threaten disabled woman in alley

## Matt hands out awards



**Ex-Wolves goalkeeper Matt Murray presents learning awards to students**

FORMER Wolves goalkeeper Matt Murray presented certificates and awards to a group of teenagers in Brierley Hill.

The 6ft 5in ex-player towered above around 40 excited youngsters, aged 16 to 18, who had gathered to collect their qualifications from the XL foundation learning project.

They were among more than 90

trainees who had passed their course in maths, English and ICT.

Matt, aged 31, said: "I've been speaking to some of the youngsters and they've really enjoyed it."

The XL course, run by the Juniper training company at The Waterfront, Brierley Hill, is aimed at young people who are not in education, employment or training.

**A DISABLED woman was threatened by teenagers who surrounded her mobility scooter and demanded cash - until a good Samaritan intervened.**

The three youths, all on bicycles, stopped the 33-year-old woman in an alleyway near to Mary Stevens Park, Norton, Stourbridge, and asked her for cash.

Luckily, a witness driving along nearby Fredericks Close saw the confrontation and stepped in. Police are appealing for witnesses following the incident, which happened at 2.30pm on August 31 as the woman drove her scooter along an alleyway from Norton Road.

De Nick Slyn, of Dudley CID, said: "The group, who were all male, surrounded the woman, threatened her. Thankfully a witness was driving down Fredericks Close, saw the confrontation and intervened."

"The group then rode off in the direction of Mary Stevens Park."

De Slyn said the man driving by "spooked" the trio when he stopped his car.

Police have released a description of two of the youths. One was a black male, aged between 15 and 16 and 5ft 6ins. He had very short black hair with a scar above his right eyebrow. He was wearing a dark grey zip up hoodie, blue baggy jeans and was riding a dark green metallic BMX bike with black wording. A second youth was white, aged between 15 and 16, with dark brown shoulder length hair and wearing a black baseball cap with a white NY logo on the front. Call Dudley CID on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## Toilets get major revamp

A TOILET block at community rooms in Bewdley has been given a £28,000 revamp thanks to a grant.

The Wribbenhall Parish Rooms in Kidderminster Road now have disabled and baby changing facilities, outside access to toilets and a small meeting room for hire.

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## NEWS

## NEWS

## in brief

## Walkers wanted for charity event

FUNDRAISERS are wanted for a sponsored walk for a charity.

The Alzheimer's Society will hold its annual Memory Walk at Dudley Zoo and Castle on September 22 with participants gathering at 10.30am for an 11am start.

There is a choice of three walks, 1.5km, 5km and 10km, to suit different levels of fitness. The cash raised will help support people with dementia and carers in the area.

Walkers and spectators will be entertained by rock 'n' roll band Out of the Shadows and there will be a classic car display and entertainment for children. To register for the event turn up before 11am or visit [www.memoirywalk.org.uk](http://www.memoirywalk.org.uk).

## Launch of new good beer guide

THE new edition of the Campaign for Real Ale's Good Beer Guide will be launched for the West Midlands at a Dudley pub this week.

The Courthouse in New Road will also be presented with the bronze award in the Canara West Midlands Cider Pub of the Year competition at the launch tonight.

## Library reopens

DUDLEY Library has reopened following a fire in a toilet cubicle.

The venue was closed to the public last Thursday and Friday after the blaze in the unisex first floor toilet on Wednesday night.

# Two day centres are in line to get six-figure makeovers

TWO day centres in Dudley will each be given a six-figure revamp under plans to improve services for people with dementia. Both the Brettell Lane Day Centre in Stourbridge and the Brett Young Day Centre in Halesowen will be refurbished and redecorated at a total cost of £1,610,000.

## Dancers will help kick-start fashion season

DANCING groups will help kick-start the autumn and winter fashion season at Dudley's Merry Hill shopping centre.

This weekend, Fountain Square will be transformed into a beauty and fashion zone.

There will be entertainment from the dancers, who will be showcasing the latest fashion trends on Saturday and Sunday.

Shoppers will be treated to mini makeovers and expert advice from health and beauty retailers.

For those on the hunt for a bargain, a free voucher booklet will be available from the concierge desk and online offering giving up to 20 per cent off at retailers such as Oasis, Vero Moda, Diffusion and Jack Jones.

A number of competitions will take place throughout the weekend offering the chance to win up to £1,000 of Autumn fashion goodies.

Kelly Reed, marketing manager at Westfield Merry Hill said: "Our fashion events have established themselves as one of our most popular attractions and the Fashion Takeover is set to be the biggest yet."

Dudley Council wants to turn them into centres which meet the specific needs of people with dementia.

It is estimated that around 3,850 people in the borough are affected by the condition.

The work will include improvements to the access to the buildings and the creation of sensory gardens.

The centres offer a wide range of day sessions and therapies, from crafts and memory exercises to gardening.

### Break

Staff also run activities to provide a break for family and carers.

Around £960,000 will be spent on Brettell Lane Day Centre in King William Street, which provides services for around 45 people.

While the cost of work at Brett Young Day Centre in Old Hawne Lane will be £650,000.

Councillor Steve Waltho, cabinet member for adult and community services, said, the aim is to ensure those affected by dementia enjoy life to the full, and offer a wide range of day sessions and therapies, from crafts and memory exercises to gardening.

"There are also day sessions available to provide a break for family and carers."

"The way we care for people with dementia was also recently been short listed for a national healthcare award, and any improvements to Brettell Lane and Brett Young would help continue the excellent support for people with dementia."

## Pupils win awards on rights



Maci Shakespeare, Ethan Baker, Casey Lampitt, Isabel Barrington-Earp, Tom Slater, Rhys Hill, Joe Wood, Abigail Robertson-Leach and Laurie Morris celebrate the award

KINGSWINFORD school pupils have won an award for their work learning about children's rights and putting them into practice on a daily basis.

Glynne Primary School is the first school in Dudley borough to receive a Rights Respecting Schools accolade from Unicef.

Pupils have been learning about children's rights, set out by the United Nations, since last September and have worked to make them part of school life.

Youngsters nominate fellow pupils for awards if they have worked well in class, reflecting the right to education, or have brought along a well-balanced lunch, reflecting the healthy eating right.

Children have also been given a notebook with the rights written in them to take home and show to parents and formed a rights respecting body alongside the normal school council.

An assessment was carried out at the school earlier this year and staff informed they had earned the award before the summer holidays.

## Plan for store to replace car wash

A CAR wash in Brierley Hill will be demolished and replaced with a convenience store.

A company has not yet been confirmed to take over the proposed retail unit in High Street, Pensnett.

But developers Commercial Development Projects have submitted a planning application to flatten the Arc car wash for the convenience store.

It would have 12 off-street parking spaces, including two for disabled motorists.

In a statement, the agent said: "The proposals will make a positive contribution to facilities available to residents and businesses within the local catchment area, creating economic activity and generating employment."

The convenience store would be single-storey and would have a glass frontage.

Based on other similar retail units, it would be expected to take an annual turnover of £2.6million, with £1.7million coming from customers.

## Table-top sale

A TABLE-top sale will be held at a village hall near Stourbridge, to help bring in vital funds for its upkeep.

The event will be held at Stourton Village Hall, off Bridgworth Road, on October 6, and people still have time to take a stall.

For further information, call 01384 872073.



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## NEWS

# Shoppers demanding a change to revive towns

## Couple's rude awakening



**Keith and Sarah Coley by their narrowboat, The Maverick Water Gypsy**

**NEWLYWEDS** Keith and Sarah Coley were jilted out of bed when their honeymoon canal boat dropped five feet due to vandals emptying a lock in Stourbridge. The couple, who married on September 1, had their rude awakening while moored next to the former Stuart Crystal glassworks, by the Red House cone at Wordsley. "I literally fell out of bed," said Keith, aged 47, a self-employed

artist. We realised the bed was on a tilt and I rolled out at about 8.30am. "When I went out to check I realised there was no water in the canal." Keith and 42-year-old shop worker Sarah, who wed at Birmingham Register Office, live aboard Maverick Water Gypsy, a 45ft narrow boat. They are touring the Black Country canals for their honeymoon, en route to Stoke-on-Trent.

**SHOPPERS** in Dudley and Brierley Hill are demanding smarter town centres, free parking and lower shop rents to help revive the high streets.

They have responded to the latest survey that claimed the two towns as among the worst in the country for the number of empty shops.

Dudley was ranked the poorest performing medium-sized town with 32.4 per cent of shops empty. Brierley Hill came fourth in the list of worst performing small towns with 29.6 per cent of retail units vacant.

In Dudley, unemployed grandmother Tracey Liebenrood, aged 42, of Halesowen Road, Cradley Heath, said a "better variety of shops" was needed to attract more people.

She added: "There are too many of the same kind of shops, and many people are ditching the town centre for places like Merry Hill."

Unemployed Warren Clayton, 45, of Shaw Road, Dudley said: "The place could be tidier, the High Street has definitely gone downhill in recent years."

"We could do with more features too and the rents could be reduced to help the businesses stay open."

Retired tanker driver Harry Vernon, 76, of Dean Court, Brierley Hill, said free parking would "benefit the town", and retired tyre maker Fred Staite, 63, of Allan Close, Brierley Hill, said the town was "dying".

He added: "There are so many closures I just can't help think can't the rents be lowered to help."

## Carpet firm chiefs culled

FOUR directors have been ousted from the boardroom at Kidderminster carpet manufacturer Victoria following an AGM.

Group managing director Alan Bullock, non-executive directors David Garman and Roger Hoyle and the group's Australian division managing director Barry Poynter have all gone.

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## NEWS

# Shooting club could be forced to boost security

**A NIGHTCLUB in Dudley where a man was shot could be forced to tighten up security when its licence is reviewed at a meeting of council chiefs.**

Hustlers in King Street, was closed for 24 hours after a man was hit in the arm in the crowded club in June.

Following its reopening, police called for a review of the premise licence on the grounds of the prevention of crime and disorder. On Tuesday, Dudley councillors were due to review the licence and will have the power to modify, suspend and even revoke it.

West Midlands Police spokesman Gina Lycett said: "The request for the review comes following the shooting at the nightclub on June 23. We are not asking for the club to lose its licence, we are asking the owners to tighten up the conditions over security."

"It relates to improved CCTV coverage, registered door staff and signage outside the club."

The licensing committee, headed by Councillor Hilary Bills, will have a range of options available to them after hearing from the police and the club's owner Mr Khan.

The nightclub, which also serves as an American pool bar, currently has a licence to open for sporting and music events with the sale of alcohol from 9am to 4am, Monday to Sunday. However, its current opening times are 11am to 11.30pm, Sunday to Wednesday, 11am to 12.30am on Thursday and 11am to 4am, Friday and Saturday.

Attempts to contact the nightclub owners for a comment, were unsuccessful.

## Help for mothers-to-be

EXPECTANT parents can get free advice at an event at Kidderminster Library.

Worcestershire County Council's Family Information Service is running the session, for pregnant women and their partners. The Kidderminster session will be held on September 18 at 6.30pm.

## Bike and the mechanic



Steven Willetts who is heading to John O'Groats for charity

A CAR mechanic has set off on a cycling challenge from Land's End to John O' Groats as a tribute to his late father.

Steven Willetts of Dudley, will begin his journey at the weekend and hopes to complete it in 13 days. The 35-year-old father-of-one plans to cycle around 70 miles each day and has already raised £1,500

for the Alzheimer's Society. Mr Willetts' father, David, who died at the age of 66 last year, had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's Disease six years earlier.

Mr Willetts said: "It was very tough to watch what it did to him." To sponsor Steven log on to [www.justgiving.com/steven-willetts307](http://www.justgiving.com/steven-willetts307)



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## Campaigners keeping up battle over gallery threat

CAMPAIGNERS vowed to continue their fight to save Kidderminster Library's closure-threatened gallery as the council launched a second consultation on its future.

Members of the Friends of Kidderminster Library Gallery gathered last week to discuss how to move forward in their bid to stop the arts and performance space from being scrapped. Worcestershire County Council wants to move around 130 workers into the gallery on the second floor of the library instead.

When the move was first announced four months ago, arts and music groups in the town protested, prompting the council to put the plans on hold.

But designs have now been drawn up for

two new options for the library and residents are being asked for their views.

Option A would still see the second floor converted into offices but a smaller gallery with meeting rooms would be created on the first floor. The Steinway grand piano would be moved to the Corn Exchange next to Kidderminster Town Hall.

Option B would see the gallery remain on the second floor but part of the room would be turned into offices. More offices would also be provided on the first floor. It has not been decided what would happen to the piano under this option. At a recent meeting the Friends agreed to write to the council to say they did not approve of Option A or any option which would see the piano move out of the library.

## SVR to launch £3m shares

**A £3 MILLION share offer will be launched by the Severn Valley Railway to pay for a new visitor centre and to bring a historic locomotive back into use.**

Railway chiefs want to raise the money to build the centre, station gateway and spectator gallery at Bridgnorth railway station and to create a heritage engineering and building training academy.

Further ideas include restoring the Hagley Hall locomotive - which has not worked for more than 23 years - and carrying out further maintenance to the line and its infrastructure to preserve it for decades to come. From

October 1, three million shares priced at £1 each will be on offer, giving enthusiasts the chance to own a part of the railway. A launch event will also be held on October 13 and 14 at a members' and shareholders' weekend.

### Anniversary

It comes as bosses at the railway celebrate the line's 150th anniversary this year, while 2015 will be the 50th anniversary of the launch of a campaign to bring the line back into use.

A spokesman for the SVR said: "To mark the 150th anniversary of the line, Severn Valley Railway is launching a share issue in October which will give anyone with a keen interest in the railway the opportunity to own

part of a growing national treasure."

He said the aim was to provide investment in visitor amenities, rolling stock and infrastructure, including the creation of a heritage engineering and building training academy for young people.

"The next major milestone in the history of the railway will be our golden jubilee in 2015 marking 50 years since the start of the campaign to reopen the line as a heritage railway."

"Feedback from shareholders, supporters and volunteers suggests that the time is right for the board to embark on a major investment programme to prepare the railway for the next 50 years."

## Aldi taking on youths

ELEVEN teenagers have been signed up as apprentices at supermarket chain Aldi following a recruitment campaign run by a Black Country college.

Stourbridge College's Black Country Skills Shop launched the scheme in March and targeted school leavers interested in pursuing a career in retail management.

They will work across 19 stores covering the Black Country, Worcestershire and Shropshire after bosses received 980 applications.

Skills shop staff whittled the numbers down to the last 50.

## Petition sent in to combat speeding



County councillor John Thomas, resident Ray Kilgour and county councillor Ken Henderson with the petition

A PETITION calling for the speed limit to be slashed on a busy road near a Stourport school has been presented to council chiefs.

Around 260 people have backed the campaign launched by resident Ray Kilgour who is concerned about the number of cars ignoring the 30mph limit in Princess Way, Areley Kings. He wants the county council to introduce a 20mph limit by St Bartholomew's Primary School. County councillor John Thomas has been given the petition and will take it to County Hall.

Worcestershire's transport chief Councillor John Smith has pledged to look into the situation and see what can be done to make it safer for schoolchildren.

Mr Kilgour, aged 75, who has lived in Princess Way for more than 30 years, has branded the road as "an accident waiting to happen".

"I am worried someone is going to get badly hurt if something is not done to stop people speeding."

"The speed of the traffic is out of this world. Reducing the speed limit would force people to slow down."

His campaign has been backed by Stourport town councillor Ken Henderson.

"Speeding is a big problem in Areley Kings but it is particularly worrying in Princess Way because of the school."

"Full credit to Mr Kilgour for going out on the streets and collecting the signatures," said Councillor Henderson.

Councillor Smith, who is Worcestershire County Council's cabinet member for transport, has said he will look into Mr Kilgour's concerns.

"We will certainly take a look at what is happening there and look at the speed of the traffic and the amount of traffic using the road to see if a 20mph limit is appropriate."

## Students given tour of £6.6m college site

STUDENTS got their first look at Dudley College's £6.6 million sixth form centre when they received a guided tour around the new building.

Lessons will start at the new site, on the corner of Priory Road and Ednam Road, Dudley, this week in subjects ranging from English and maths to film studies.

But staff from the college wanted to show new students the facilities available at the centre and staged a tour of the site last week.

Around 350 students toured the new classrooms and facilities.

They were also provided with a pack containing stationery to help get them started along with information on the sixth form centre and where to eat around the town.

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## NEWS

# Buyer finally found for eyesore memorial club

A FORMER war memorial club in Stourbridge which has become and eyesore after standing empty for more than a decade, has been sold.

Stourbridge War Memorial Club, Ambleside High Street, has been on the market for years and the building has become dilapidated through vandalism, fire and weather.

The Lee, Shaw Partnership said a sale had now been agreed for the site. Officials said the sale was "progressing well" and no further negotiations were expected at the present time.

The deal is expected to be finalised soon. Sold signs have now gone up outside the building but the agents refused to comment on whether the site had been sold to an individual or a company.

They said at present it was not clear what future plans for the site would be.

Residents have been calling for action to clean up the site for years saying the building has become an eyesore on one of the main routes into Stourbridge town centre.

It is not the first time sold signs have been put up at the building this year. A sale was agreed in April this year but fell through less than a month later.

Plans were also submitted in 2009 to turn the site into a restaurant and cabaret but the scheme floundered over traffic concerns.

Spokesman Jo Walford said: "A sale has now been agreed for the former war memorial club and everything is progressing well at the present time."

"There has been a lot of interest expressed in the site."

## Charity coffee morning

A CHARITY coffee morning to raise money for cancer care is being held in Bewdley.

The event is part of the World's Biggest Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support.

The event will be on September 27 between 10am and 12.30pm at Bewdley Baptist Church, Load Street.

## Band heads for finals



The Concept band members Richard Jevons, Simon Hill, Dino Franchi, Aidan Underhill and Nathan Tipton are in the finals of a competition

A ROCK band from the Black Country are vying for a place on a national tour and a recording contract as they reach the final of an international competition.

The Concept will battle it out with 27 other groups at the final of the Surface Unsigned contest at the Indigo 2 in London's O2 Arena. It is the fifth and final round of the com-

petition with £100,000 of prizes up for grabs. The five students, who come from Wolverhampton, Quarry Bank, Kingswinford, Wollaston and Nottingham, only formed 10 months ago after meeting at Wolverhampton University.

They describe their music as "melodic pop rock" and write their own songs.



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## NEWS

# Round the world trip to get a hip replacement



Alan Lowe with wife Mary, who travelled from Tauranga, in New Zealand

A GRANDFATHER flew all the way from New Zealand to Halesowen to get a hip replacement from a specialist doctor.

Alan Lowe, aged 71, decided to make the 11,000 mile journey after discovering consultant orthopaedic surgeon Edward Davis used computer navigational surgery for hip replacements. The West Midlands Hospital-based surgeon is the only one in the country to use the technology, which offers a more accurate fit for the bone replacements.

Mr Lowe said: "I think it surprised a few people how far I went for the surgery, but it was worth it."

"My hip feels so much better than before I went in for the surgery. I'd recommend it to anyone, no matter how far they have to come."

Mr Lowe lived in Bromley and worked for a satellite communication company before retiring in 2005 and moving to New Zealand.

He still has family in the country and got the chance to visit them after his operation at the private hospital in Halesowen on July 16. It was paid for privately by his medical insurance.

He said: "I've had my other hip done, so I knew when I needed the hip replacement and immediately started researching the operation from my home."

"I read about this new technology and contacted the surgery in Halesowen to find out more before booking myself in for the operation. It was quick and, soon after, I was feeling much better."

Mr Davis has been using computer navigation surgery at the hospital since last July.

## New green deputy leader

THE Black Country's first ever Green Party councillor has been named as the new deputy leader of the party.

Will Duckworth, who was only elected to Dudley Council in May, was voted in last week. Natalie Bennett was named as party leader.

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## NEWS

# Incinerator campaigners may start a legal battle

**CAMPAIGNERS fighting plans for a £120 million incinerator in a village near Kidderminster are looking to launch a legal bid to stop the development going ahead.**

The EnviRecover plant in Hartlebury near Kidderminster would be open by late 2013 and site bosses say they hope to start building by the end of the year. The decision to approve the plans was announced by Communities and Local Government Secretary Eric Pickles.

It follows a three year fight by residents. But protesters said they have instructed a legal team to investigate if there are grounds for a judicial review in the High Court.

They were due to discuss the next plan of action at a meeting of Hartlebury Parish Council this week.

The Mercia Waste Management plant will take up to 200,000 tons of waste from Worcestershire and Herefordshire each year.

This will then be converted into up to 15.5 megawatts of electricity – enough to supply about 20,000 homes.

But the scheme, first unveiled in 2009, prompted more than 1,100 letters of objection and a petition against the plant was signed by 2,300 people.

Chairman of the campaign group, Worcestershire Residents Against Incineration and Landfill, Ray Kirby, said: "We have instructed legal counsel to ascertain if there are grounds for a judicial review. Even if we were granted a judicial review and won, there is no obligation on the Secretary of State to accept the decision. Or he could put certain conditions on the plans."

## School security upgrade

A PRIMARY school in Dudley has been given the go-ahead to put up gates and high fencing around its grounds.

Newfield Park Primary School, Whittingham Road, Halesowen, has been granted permission by Dudley Council for the security measure.

## Charities mark milestone



At the old Mary Stevens Maternity Home, from left, Age UK day centre manager, Margaret Farrington, Thomas Pocklington Trust development manager Ann Evett, service user Patricia Harris and chief executive of Dudley MIND Martin Mueller

STAFF at several Dudley charities are celebrating the 80th anniversary of their base by looking back on its history.

The Mary Stevens Maternity Home – now known as the Mary Stevens Centre – reaches the landmark age this month.

The building, which now houses the blind charity Pocklington Trust Resource Centre and Age UK,

served as a maternity home until 1984. It was commissioned by Mary Stevens' husband, Ernest.

In the early 1930s it was obvious there was an urgent need for a maternity home. Mr Stevens decided to demolish White Hall, which stood on the site originally, and build the home. On September 22 an anniversary coffee morning will be held from 10am to noon.

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## NEWS

# Plan for £6m centre to help new firms is closer

## Maid for Cambridge



Chambermaid Kennedy Bloomer has a place at Cambridge University

A CHAMBERMAID at a Dudley hotel has proved she has the key to further education – after securing a place at Cambridge University.

Kennedy Bloomer, aged 18, of Brierley Hill, has been cleaning rooms at the Copthorne Hotel, Merry Hill, for the last year as well as studying at Stourbridge's King Edward VI Sixth Form College.

Even though she has worked five hours every Sunday, as well as shifts

during holidays, she managed to gain an A\* A-level in drama and A grades in dance, English and General Studies from her efforts.

She has now been accepted to read education with English and drama at Homerton College, Cambridge.

"I'm excited but a bit scared and nervous to be going to Cambridge," said Kennedy, of Gayfield Avenue, Withymoor.

**PLANS** for a £6 million centre offering short-term space for fledgling businesses in Dudley have moved forward.

Talks are now underway with an office developer. Dudley Council has been looking to create an Innovation and Enterprise Centre for around three years but has so far struggled to get the project off the ground.

Regeneration chiefs say that, if built, it would enable small companies to work together and get advice from each other to help boost the region's economy.

Proposals for the development were first mooted in 2009 but due to the difficult financial climate the council, which was working with neighbouring Sandwell Council, was unable to appoint a developer.

But the council has now revealed talks were under way with an office developer who is known for creating accommodation for small and start-up firms.

Under the plans, the centre would be built on land at Castlegate Business Park. An update report, from the council's urban environment director, John Millar, said: "At present, discussions are continuing with a particular office developer who has expressed an interest in Castlegate and who would develop a managed workspace facility with associated car parking and servicing."

"Whilst discussions with this developer are continuing, it is difficult at the moment to specify the exact nature of the space that might be provided, but the particular developer in question has a track record of providing flexible accommodation which is suited specifically to small and emerging business."

### Advice on energy saving

FREE advice on making homes more energy efficient will be available at an event in Wyre Forest. Energy experts Act On Energy are offering free and impartial advice.

The Energy Advice Surgery will be at the Worcestershire Hub, Kidderminster, next to the Town Hall, on September 13 from 10am to 1pm. For more details call 0800 988 2881.

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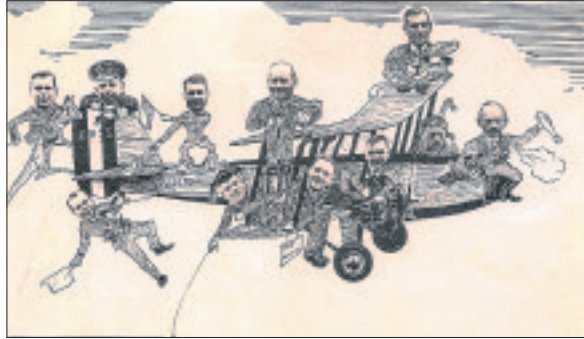




## MEMORY LANE



The Boulton Paul Overstrand is pictured and alongside it is a Sidestrand



Pilots of No 101 Squadron on a cartoon of a Sidestrand bomber



Five Overstrands of No 101 Squadron in line abreast



The Boulton Paul Association's Overstrand replica which will be on show at the weekend at Halfpenny Green Airport

## When aircraft advance technology was a zip

by Alec Brew

THIS Sunday (16) at the Autumn Wings and Wheels Fly-in at Halfpenny Green Airport, the Boulton Paul Association will be exhibiting a replica of the world's first aircraft gun turret in the nose of an Overstrand bomber.

Back in the early 1930s, as aircraft speeds increased, the poor old air gunners in their open cockpits were having great difficulty training their hand held guns in the 150mph slipstreams, and changing magazines with frozen fingers, sometimes dropping them overboard.

In response Boulton Paul Aircraft, then in Norwich, came up with the world's first fully-enclosed power-operated gun turret, and redesigned their Sidestrand medium bomber, replacing the open gunner's position in the nose with the new turret.

The redesigned aircraft was called the Overstrand, the two names being those of small villages in Norfolk.

The circular turret was pneumatically powered, the single Lewis gun operating a plunger on each side of

the vertical slot in which it lay, to revolve the turret in either direction.

The slot was closed by another contemporary, piece of advanced technology, a zip. As the gun was raised or lowered it automatically opened and closed the zip, keeping the gunner draught-free inside.

### Badge

When the turret was locked in position, the gunner could perform his other function of bomb-aimer, opening a small window, and swinging his bomb-sight into position.

The RAF's single Sidestrand squadron, No 101, was re-equipped with the new aircraft, and as the first squadron in the World with turret-armed bombers, to this day features a 'turret' on its badge, though of the medieval castle variety.

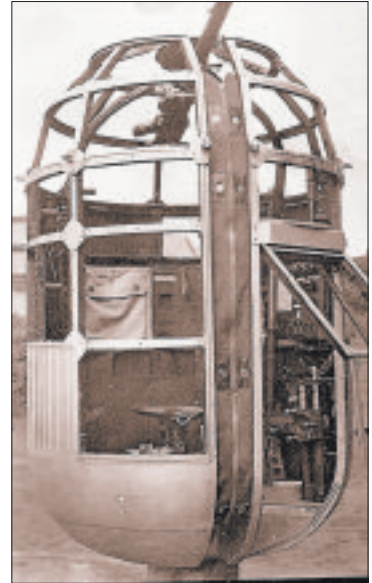
All the Overstrands were built in Norwich, but Boulton Paul did bring two of them to Wolverhampton when the company re-located, and used them for turret development work.

It had purchased the rights to a French electro-hydraulic power system for use in its subsequent turrets, like the Defiant and Roc fighters which were rolling down its production lines at the outbreak of War, and it was in the nose of an Overstrand that these turrets were first flown.

More than 20,000 Boulton Paul gun turrets were built over the next 15 years, up to and including that fitted to the nose of the famous Avro Shackleton.

Ten years ago the Boulton Paul Association set out to build a replica of this revolutionary gun turret, and the nose of an Overstrand bomber, in which to display it. It is this replica, newly completed, which will be exhibited at Cockpits West, a display of aircraft cockpits which will be one of the many attractions at the show.

Also on display will be one of Boulton Paul's Avro Lincoln tail turrets, which also equipped No 101 Squadron, 10 years after their gunners first came in out of the cold.



The Overstrand's turret, showing the zip fastener enclosing the gun-slot

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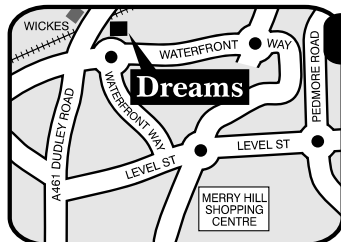
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## NEWS

## Share of £70,000 grants up for grabs

VOLUNTARY and community groups in Worcestershire can apply for a share of £70,000 in grants.

The grants are available to help organisations celebrate diversity through raising knowledge and understanding, and encouraging interaction among different cultures, backgrounds and social needs in their areas.

The maximum an organisation can apply for is £1,000 and the deadline for applications is 4pm on October 5.

Previous recipients of the Voluntary and Community Sector grants include an organisation which held an open day to celebrate the diversity of deafness and the history and culture of deaf people. Another worked with drama students to encourage better understanding of traveller communities.

Post applications by recorded delivery to Suzy James, VCS Unit, Adult & Community Services, Worcestershire County Council, County Hall, Spetchley Road, Worcester, WR5 2NP.

## Greener energy

SOLAR energy specialist Eco2Solar puts renewable energy in the spotlight with its Making Sense of Green Energy event on October 19 at Worcester's Guildhall starting at 11am.

## Standard of care at town hospital praised by patient

## Engine is steaming into action for railway

THE Severn Valley Railway has a new addition to its fleet.

Former Southern Railway Battle of Britain Class engine No. 34053 Sir Keith Park, has joined the line's working fleet.

The 1947-built express passenger engine worked the heavy continental boat trains between London and the south coast ports, and other fast expresses.

Its role in the British Railways fleet came to an end in 1965 when BR replaced its steam locomotives with diesel and electric types. But instead of being scrapped, Sir Keith Park luckily stayed intact at a scrap yard in South Wales and was rescued in 1984.

But in 1999 when it was bought by its present owners, the steam enthusiast group Southern Locomotives, it had been so heavily stripped of parts, it was dubbed "Project Impossible".



The Sir Keith Park which has joined the Severn Valley Railway, at the Oldbury Viaduct

tives, it had been so heavily stripped of parts, it was dubbed "Project Impossible".

Spurred on by the challenge, Southern Locomotives resolved to honour the memory of Sir Keith Park,

the RAF commander whose tactics won the 1940 Battle of Britain, by restoring the engine. And steam enthusiasts will see Sir Keith Park at the SVR's big autumn Steam Gala on September 21-23st. It will be joined by two other

former Southern Railway locomotives never before seen on the Bridgnorth-Kidderminster line.

SVR General Manager Nick Ralls said: "Sir Keith Park is something of a gold nugget for us."

## STAFF at Worcestershire Royal Hospital have come in for praise from Kidderminster patient, 71-year-old John Morgan.

Mr Morgan, who has suffered with a blood disease for 13 years, phoned the hospital last month when he started feeling shaky and unwell. He was admitted on August 13 after blood tests revealed complete kidney failure.

He was treated in the new acute medical unit, opened to improve the flow of patients from A&E, and on Avon 1 ward.

He said: "I've been at the hospital for three weeks, and everything I've seen is excellent."

"The food's been very good - a roast dinner with pork and gravy on Sunday, with a wonderful pudding. It's a shame I can't eat as much as usual."

## Positive

"The staff are very good and the cleanliness is second to none - which is really important on a ward like this because a lot of people are seriously ill."

"Of course, I'd much rather be at home than in hospital, and I'm not saying I haven't experienced any problems at all. But the ward sisters comes to talk to me every day, so if there is anything wrong I know I can speak to her."

"I couldn't ask for more. I used to run my own business, and I was a perfection-



Impressed - John Morgan

ist when it came to work. I can see the staff here feel the same about their jobs as I did."

"The NHS gets a bad press sometimes, but my experience has been positive. The staff here work non-stop and the care they give is spot-on."

Ward sister Ruth Warren said: "We have a philosophy on this ward that our patients are treated as an extension of our family."

"It's a difficult time for patients and their loved ones, and it's important for us to be open and available."

"Most importantly, you need to speak in a language they understand so they are aware of what is happening."

## New HQ for firm in Black Country

STATIONARY firm Helix has moved its HQ in the Black Country after battling back from administration.

The 125-year-old firm, well known in classrooms across the country for its mathematics set, has a new base at the Pensnett Estate, in Dudley.

Around £320,000 has been spent refurbishing the premises at the industrial estate, off Dudley Road, near Kingswinford.

Helix left its Engine Lane plant, in Lye, near Stourbridge, after French stationary giant Mapeo completed the buyout of the firm earlier this year.

Twenty-nine staff will be at the site in the design, research and development, and administration departments, alongside a distribution centre.

The firm entered administration in January. General manager Mike Pell said retaining a base in the Black Country had been crucial for the future of the business.

## Support offered

THE Black Country Fibromyalgia support group's next meeting is on September 20 at the Nine Locks Community Centre, Hill Street, Brierley Hill, 11am-1.30. People with the disorder, meaning chronic pain, can get advice and fellowship. Call 08448 872382.

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## Rider hurt in 100ft plunge

A MAN was injured after he lost control of his motorbike and fell down a steep embankment in Dudley.

Emergency services were called to help the rider, who is believed to have fallen about 100ft.

It is understood the man, who was in his 30s had been riding in Wrens Nest National Nature Reserve when the accident happened. Firefighters were called to help paramedics lift the man to safety. Watch commander Lee Wilson said: "It was a case of carrying him out as best we could. It's not clear how it happened. He was in a bad way." He suffered back, neck and chest injuries and was transported to Russels Halls Hospital.

The man was fully immobilised before being placed on to an all-terrain vehicle.

# Firebugs thought to be behind blaze that scorched 74 acres

**A FIRE thought to be the work of arsonists destroyed around 74 acres of wheat and straw.**

More than 60 firefighters battled the grass fire on land near to Himley Hall, Himley near Dudley which is believed to have been started deliberately.

It began just before 4.30pm on Sunday and strong winds caused it to spread rapidly. There were initially concerns that nearby buildings where dozens of game birds are bred could be under threat.

Crews asked for tractors to be put on standby in the eventuality trenches would need to be dug to

stop the flames spreading. But they managed to get it under control.

Incident commander Mick Archer said: "This was potentially very serious but, because of the large number of resources at our disposal, we were able to deal with it in a quick and efficient manner."

"The grass had recently been cut and it was a hot day so it flashed across very quickly. The biggest issue was the wind." The fire was eventually brought under control by 7pm.

Mr Archer added: "We believe it may have been started deliberately but investigations are ongoing."



A lone firefighter on the burned landscape

## Probation sites closure plans

THREE of Dudley's probation offices will close under plans to build a new two-storey headquarters for around 80 staff.

The workers, based in Dudley, Stourbridge, Netherton and Halesowen will move into the base at Castlegate Business Park.

The offices, run by Staffordshire and West Midlands Probation Trust in Stourbridge, Netherton and Halesowen will shut.

While offender management staff based at Dudley Magistrates' Court will also relocate to the new building. A planning application has been submitted to Dudley Council by developer Stoford, contracted by the Ministry of Justice.

Once planning permission has been granted, work on the scheme can start. Construction is expected to end by September 2013.

## Something worth shouting about



Town crier Peter Taunton on the carousel at an annual celebration in Netherton

MORE than 2,000 people attended an annual celebration in Netherton held to raise the town's profile.

Now in its fifth year, the event at the weekend had a Victorian Olympics theme. Entertainment at Netherton Arts Centre and the Savoy Centre in Northfield Road included street performers, funfair attractions and live music.

There was a glass blowing demonstration, dance performances and 29 stalls selling everything from books, to craft items and jewellery.

Other highlights included Olympic sport displays, Morris dancers and penny farthing riders.

"It's been really good," said Netherton Arts Centre's strategic manager Claire Starmer. "I would say it's been as popular as previous years."

"Last time we had a bumper year because we had a replica of the Titanic anchor installed. You can't really compare it with that. But we've had about as many people."

## Cyclists to pedal 270 miles for firefighters

CYCLISTS from the fire service will ride 270 miles for charity starting in Wyre Forest. The riders will aim to visit all 27 fire stations in the Hereford and Worcester service area.

The team includes capital projects manager Alan Jones and station commander Phil Griffiths, both based at fire service headquarters in Worcester, plus crew commander Tom Houghton, based at Worcester Fire Station.

They start from Stourport at 6am on September 14 and ending their ride in Hereford at around 1pm the following day.

Project manager Sarah Sanderson will accompany them in a support vehicle over the two-days.

The team is hoping to raise money for the Fire Fighters Charity and St Richard's Hospice in Worcester, as they complete their ride.

Mr Griffiths said: "We will be in Worcestershire until early afternoon on Friday, and then in Herefordshire on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, with plans to cycle into Hereford to join the Open Day at Hereford Fire Station early afternoon."

It would be fantastic to get support from local people along the way and we'd also appreciate any donations to our chosen charities." To donate visit

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## CLUB NEWS

### Members told about Troop Aid

#### BLACKHEATH "M" TOWNSWOMEN

CHAIRMAN Doreen Armstrong opened the meeting. She welcomed all members present and the speaker for the day, Mrs A Sutton.

Reports were given by treasurer, Beryl Hartley, outings co-ordinator Brenda Ellesmore and press secretary Iris Harris.

It was announced that guild members would be taking part in a sponsored walk in aid of the Princess Royal Trust for Carers.

The monthly raffle was held by Heather Greenland and three ladies received prizes of hand towels.

At the end of guild business, the chairman introduced the speaker, whose talk was entitled "Troop Aid". It was founded in 2006 by three ex-servicemen, one of whom was Mrs Sutton's husband.

The object is to supply basic essentials to military casualties, returning from overseas after service. Grab bags containing things like toiletries, writing paper and envelopes, underwear and socks are sent to field hospitals abroad and at home including the Queen Elizabeth in Birmingham.

Ladies were very moved by the talk and were pleased to help by purchasing objects on sale. A vote of thanks was given by Iris Harris and a cheque was presented.

The next meeting will be held at 10.30am on September 26 at the Moose Hall, Beeches Road, Blackheath.

## Guests' address both uplifting and graphic



Margaret and Eugene Schellenberg of the Ifakara Bakery were the guest speakers

ONE visitor was welcomed to the August meeting at Kingswinford Community Centre.

After the reading and signing of the minutes, Enid Fennell read the Federation report in full. The various groups reported on their doings. The luncheon club venues from September until January 2013 were distributed. The Christmas luncheon, by popular request will be at Hagley Golf and Country Club.

Josie Smith was thanked for her floral

#### KINGSWINFORD TWG

arrangement. Speakers were Margaret and Eugene Schellenberg who gave graphic and uplifting description of the formation of the Ifakara bakery in Tanzania.

A collection was taken to aid the continuation of this splendid project and Sue Cotterell gave thanks.

Raffle winners were Barbara White, Josie Smith and Sandra Gray.

## Air Ambulance talk topic

THE chairman welcomed 24 members to the August meeting.

The reading and signing of the previous meeting was followed by the financial report. Mrs Raybould was present at the recent federation meeting and gave information about it. There was no correspondence.

The social secretary gave information about the visit

#### QUARRY BANK E TWG

to Highgrove, to include a two-hour guided tour with time to visit the restaurant and gift shop.

The Harvest Supper is to be held on October 10 at Wollaston Community Centre. The speaker for the evening was Mr Geoff Wood-

ford, his topic "The Midlands Air Ambulance".

This is the 21st year that the Air Ambulance has been operational and every time the helicopter takes to the air it costs £2,500 and that is funded completely by voluntary contributions.

The next guild meeting will be on September 18 with a talk about being a TV extra.

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# Murder, Italian style

## DVDs

### Inspector Montalbano: Collection Two (15)

A SUNNY alternative to all those cold and dark Scandinavian crime thrillers, this Italian series was originally shown on BBC Four (the latest series is on now) and features Luca Zingaretti as the laid-back Sicilian detective. He does his best to solve murder mysteries whilst deflecting political manoeuvring from above and malign Mafia influences from below.

The collection includes six episodes on three discs and is subtitled, which would probably be a good thing even if you can speak Italian as all the characters seem to talk as if on fast-forward.

### Borgia (15)

Not to be confused with The Borgias epic currently being shown by Sky, this is an equally glossy but less soapy telling of the rise to power of one family in Renaissance Italy.

Subtitled Faith And Fear, this European production lacks big names but looks very good and rips through the family story with lots of (restrained) violence and depravity as the Borgias murder their way to the top, which in the 15th century meant the title of Pope.

The four DVD boxset features all 13 episodes of Oliver Hirschbiegel's mini-series.

Leon Burakowski



Luca Zingaretti as smooth Italian detective Inspector Montalbano

## REVIEWS

### Stick to the action above

## Game

### Damage Inc. Pacific Squadron WWII (12, £39.99, X360, PS3, PC)

THIS aerial combat game puts the gamer in the cockpit of 32 1940s warplanes as you take revenge on the Imperial Japanese airforce for the attack on US forces in Pearl Harbour.

Get the version with the Pacific AV8R Flightstick, a sturdy piece of kit which plugs into a USB port, and the game comes to life. Rather than pushing buttons, you can perform dives and barrel rolls with ease.

The game offers arcade and flight sim modes, more than 20 missions and the chance to take part in online dogfights. The handling is good but the game is let down by poor scenery graphics at low altitude and robotic voice acting. **LB**

# Woman takes to her bed for a year

### The Woman Who Went To Bed For A Year - Sue Townsend (Penguin, paperback, £7.99)

THE creator of Adrian Mole presents us with another memorable character in Eva Beaver.

This 50-year-old wife and mother, after despatching her teenage twins to university, chucks tomato soup all over the chair she has spent two years embroidering and takes to her bed... for a year.

It soon turns out that this is more than a mere midlife crisis or even a nervous breakdown, as Eva's determination to stay on the sheets confounds her family and turns her into a celebrity.

Eva's dramatic way of reappraising her life allows Townsend to wittily point out the absurdities in modern suburban life.

This is a novel to provoke many wry smiles rather than belly laughs.

## Books

### Four Children and It - Jacqueline Wilson (Puffin, hardback, £12.99)

The UK's top children's author gives a modern twist to the classic Five Children and It by E. Nesbit. The Edwardian tale is brought up to date with a squabbling modern family from the creator of Tracy Beaker. But they meet their match in the mysterious wish-granting Psammead. Wilson respects her source and probably hopes that introducing it to today's young readers will encourage them to read the original and maybe more of Edith Nesbit's work, such as The Railway Children.

### The Dog Stars - Peter Heller (Headline, hardback, £14.99)

Set in a near future America ravaged by killer flu and climate change, this first novel by adventurer Peter Heller is more a meditation on loss and loneliness than a killed-or-be-killed post-

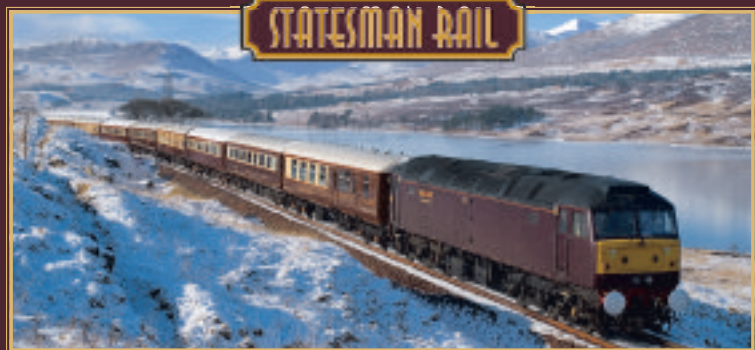
apocalypse thriller. It has similarities with Cormac McCarthy's bleak The Road, including irritating anti-grammatical devices (lack of speech marks).

But the story of pilot Hig has hope and the character has battered decency. When the action does come, it is all the more gripping because we like Hig and his dog but not his trigger-happy partner.

### The Weekend Cookbook - Catherine Hill (Penguin, hardback, £18.99)

The whole weekend is sorted by food writer Catherine Hill, from something easy for Friday night, via breakfasts that will want to make you leap out of bed, to fancy Saturday night dinners and hearty Sunday lunches. Nicely illustrated by Tim Winter's photographs, Hill's cookbook aims for maximum results for minimum effort and her recipes look very tasty indeed.

Leon Burakowski



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# What's On! Halesowen

## Narrowboats are lining up for event

AROUND 100 narrowboats will line the waterways near a Dudley beauty spot for a boating festival.

The 27th Black Country Boating Festival takes place at Bumble Hole Nature Reserve, Windmill End, Dudley, on Saturday (15) and Sunday.

The event regularly attracts more than 18,000 visitors to see boats travelling from across the country.

Canalside entertainment on the day includes a real ale bar.

Events run from 10am to 5pm on both days with free admission.

## Night of music and comedy for charity

A NIGHT of music and comedy will be held at Cradley Sports and Social Club, Colley Lane, for MacMillan Cancer Support.

Among those performing will be band Beechwood, comedian Ollie Spencer, singer Vivi Caan and acoustic guitarist Jeff Maybury. The event is on October 4 and admission is by ticket only call 07852 190333. All of the performers are giving their time for free and the event will begin at 8pm. A raffle will also be held.

## Swinging time

CHRIS Smith's Five-Star Swing Band will play at Dudley Town Hall on September 18. The group will play songs by artists such as Glenn Miller starting at 2pm and tickets are £11, from 01384 812812.

# It's rock 'n' droll to a D as comedy duo continue quest

**RIFFS and laughs will rock a sold out Wolverhampton Civic Hall next month when Hollywood movie star and comedy hero Jack Black is reunited with his comic buddy Kyle Gass for the return of their rock 'n' roll band Tenacious D.**

The D are back on the road with the release of their first studio album in more than six years, *Rize of the Fenix*, after a storming performance at the Download Festival in June.

## Killers gigs for the LG

LAS Vegas rock superstars The Killers have announced two gigs at Birmingham's LG Arena on October 31 and November 1.

Fronted by singer Brandon Flowers, the band are next week releasing their fourth studio album, *Battle Born*, and have just released a new single, *Runaways*.

The Killers have sold more than five million copies in the UK of their albums *Hot Fuss*, *Sam's Town* and *Day & Age*. The latter provided the band with their biggest hit single, *Human*, in 2008.

Tickets for the gigs range from £32.50 to £42.50 plus fees.

Combining musicianship with a sharp eye for lampooning the excesses of the metal scene, the duo brought their band to the screen in the movie *Tenacious D and the Pick of Destiny*. It was no box office hit but has picked up a cult following on DVD.

Asked what they've been up to, Jack Black said: "Well, we've been working on our meditation, a lot of meditation. There's been a lot of time spent in the Himalayas. There's been a lot of nose to the grindstone. That's right, I've been nose to the ground stoned!"

And what did he like best about being in the UK. "To go out for a curry... read some Sherlock Holmes... tandem biking through parks."

The band, named after an aggressive basketball move, will be in concert at the Civic on Sunday, October 21.



Tenacious D describe their album as journey similar to that of Gandalf in *The Lord of the Rings*. Kyle Gass and Jack Black, above, continue their quest on tour

## Autumn leaves region laughing at comic talent

IT'S going to be a funny autumn with top comedians lining up to play local venues. The latest big name is American star Chris Tucker, at Birmingham Symphony Hall (November 26).

Michael McIntyre hops around the NIA tomorrow (Friday), Saturday and then next week too.

Sandi Toksvig brings wit to Birmingham Town Hall on October 2. The same venue hosts Mark Watson (Oct 3) and Danny Bhoy (Oct 4). America's queen of mean Joan Rivers is at the Symphony Hall (Oct 16).

The New Alexandra Theatre hosts Jason Byrne on Saturday and coming up has Alan Davies, Roy Chubby Brown, Al Murray, Charlie Murphy, Ross Noble, Julian Clary, Paul Chowdhry, Lee Nelson, and Jethro.

At Wolverhampton venues the line-up includes Cannon and Ball, Sarah Millican, Freddie Starr, Al Murray, Danny Bhoy, Andi Osho, The Boy With Tape On His Face, Lee Hurst, Paul Chowdhry, and Alexei Sayle.

## Sound of Frankie Valli being played

Fans of Frankie Valli are in for treat when his songs are performed at a Halesowen venue later this month.

The Frankie Valli Story will be held at the The Laurels, Windmill Hill, on September 28.

Tickets are £4 and more information on the event can be obtained by e-mailing the club on laurels@hotmail.co.uk.

On September 29 the venue will also stage a homemade crafts and produce show. Entertainment is held weekly at the venue and all are welcome.

## Classic sounds on offer at pub

EPIC tunes and classic anthems will be performed at a pub near Halesowen.

Daniel will perform at the Knight's Quest pub, in Blackheath High Street, on Friday. The concert will be followed by a disco.

Doors will close at 11pm but the bar will remain open until 2am. People are advised to arrive early to ensure a place for the performance.

Admission for the event is priced £3.

## Jazz concerts

A NEW programme of jazz concerts will be held every month at the Bonded Warehouse, Canal Street, Stourbridge, starting on September 14. All concerts start at 7.30pm and tickets are £7 for adults and £3.50 for students or under-16s.

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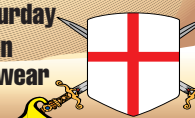
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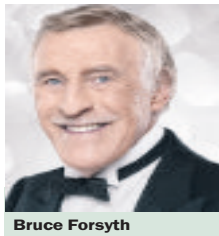
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# What's On!

## SATURDAY'S TV 15.09.12

### CHOICE



**Strictly Come Dancing – The 2012 Premiere BBC1, 6.30pm**

Maybe it's because wearing sparkly outfits and learning to fox-trot sounds a bit more appealing than eating bugs in the Australian jungle or spending two weeks cooped up in a house with cameras watching you 24 hours a day, but Strictly Come Dancing usually manages to attract a better class of celebrity than most reality shows. So, you should recognise at least half of the famous faces being introduced by Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly at this red-carpet event to launch the new series. We will finally find out who's taking part tonight!

### BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 Lorraine's Fast, Fresh and Easy Food. (R) 12.00 BBC News: Regional News. Weather. 12.15 Football Focus. 1.00 Live Athletics. 2.30 Live Golf: The Women's British Open. 4.30 Final Score. 5.15 BBC News: Regional News. Weather. 5.30 All New Total Wipeout. Twenty memorable contestants face the course again.**

**6.30 Strictly Come Dancing – The 2012 Premiere.** Bruce Forsyth and Tess Daly host a red-carpet event following this year's celebrities as they meet their professional partners, and introducing new judge Darcey Bussell.

**7.35 Doctor Who.** The Time Lord and the Ponds arrive in a Wild West town being terrorised by a cyborg gunslinger which has an alien doctor on its hit list.

**8.20 The National Lottery Secret Fortune.** High-tension quiz show, presented by Nick Knowles. Best friends Kay and Karen attempt to win the top prize of £100,000.

**9.10 Casualty.** Dylan and Tess treat an agitated pregnant woman, while Fletcher tries to unravel the relationship between a teenage girl and her swimming coach.

**10.00 BBC News.** Weather.

**10.20 Match of the Day.** Gary Lineker presents highlights of today's Premier League clashes, including Stoke City v Manchester City at the Britannia Stadium and Queens Park Rangers v Chelsea at Loftus Road. National Lottery Update.

**11.50 The Football League Show. 1.05 Weather.** 1.10 BBC News.

### BBC2

**6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 12.00 Film: The Treasure of Pancho Villa. (1955) 1.30 Film: She Wore a Yellow Ribbon. (1949) 3.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 3.45 Flog It! (R) 4.30 Live Golf: The Women's British Open. 5.00 One Man and His Dog – LIVE! 6.15 Coast. (R) 6.35 Wartime Farm. Ruth Goodman, Alex Langlands and Peter Ginn experience conditions faced by British farmers in 1940, as rationing took hold and Nazi bombing raids intensified. (R) 7.35 Dad's Army. Mainwaring and the crew of a downed German aircraft. Comedy, starring Arthur Lowe. (R) 8.10 Vikings. Neil Oliver explores the history of the Norse warriors, beginning by examining their ancient ancestry and charting Scandinavian's prehistoric landscape. (R) 9.10 QI XL. An extended edition of the quiz, as Stephen Fry asks Victoria Carr, Bill Bailey, Jimmy Carr and Alan Davies questions about words beginning with J. 9.55 The Thick of It. Former Cabinet minister Nicola Murray finds herself facing a new set of pressures in opposition, and begins to worry about whether she can rely on her party colleagues. 10.25 Clinton. New series. The story of the former American president. 11.25 Film: The Special Relationship. (2010) Fact-based political drama, starring Michael Sheen. 12.50 Film: A Study in Terror. Thriller, with John Neville. (1965).**

### ITV1

**6.00 CITV: CITV. 9.25 ITV News. 9.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. 10.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. 11.20 Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) 12.20 The X Factor. (R) 1.25 ITV News: Weather. 1.40 Film: Nim's Island. (2008) 3.25 Film: Licence to Kill. (1989) 5.55 Regional Programme: Weather. 6.10 ITV News: Weather. 6.25 New You've Been Framed! 6.55 Fool Britannia. Hidden-camera pranks, with Dom Joly. 7.25 Red or Black? Eight more contestants compete to win a huge cash prize by guessing the outcome of stunts and challenges, including a darting duel between Phil Taylor and Adrian Lewis. Continues after The X Factor. 8.10 The X Factor. Gary Barlow, Nicole Scherzinger, Tulisa and Louis Walsh continue their search for the next big thing in music. Dermot O'Leary hosts. 9.10 Red or Black? Canadian singer Nelly Furtado performs as the four remaining contestants face further challenges – but only one will be given a chance to take home the huge cash prize. 9.55 The Jonathan Ross Show. The host chats to Canadian pop sensation Justin Bieber, TV sport presenter Clare Balding and film star Liam Neeson, and the Killers perform their new single. 10.55 ITV News: Weather. 11.10 Film: Disclosure. (1994) Thriller, starring Michael Douglas and Demi Moore. 1.30 The Store. ITV News. 3.00 In Plain Sight. (R) 3.45 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.**

### CHANNEL 4

**6.00 The Treacle People. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 British F3 International Series. 7.00 The Grid. 7.25 Freeports on 4. 7.55 The Morning Line. 8.55 T4: Bourjois Boutique. 9.00 T4: iTunes Festival 2012: T4 Highlights. 9.30 T4: New Girl. 10.00 T4: Bourjois Boutique. 10.10 T4: New Girl. 10.40 T4: Revenge. 11.40 T4: Bourjois Boutique. 11.45 T4: Suburgatory. 12.20 T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) 1.25 T4: The Simpsons. (R) 2.00 Channel 4 Racing. 4.30 The Simpsons. (R) 5.05 Channel 4 News. 5.35 4thought tv. 5.40 Film: Transformers. (2007) Sci-fi action adventure, starring Shia LaBeouf. 8.20 Comedy World Cup. New series. David Tennant asks the questions as two teams of comedians from across the generations compete to showcase their knowledge of comedy. 9.20 The Million Pound Drop Live. Davina McCall presents the quiz show in which contestants can win £1million. They are challenged to place large quantities of the cash over treapdoors and face a series of questions, the wrong answers to which will lose them money every time they slip up. 10.55 Film: Hostage. (2005) A former hostage negotiator draws on his old skills to save children held captive in their own home by a gang of crazed delinquents. Thriller, with Bruce Willis and Kevin Pollak. 1.10 Film: The Clay Bird. (2002) Drama, starring Nurul Islam Bablu. 2.55 The Byways. (R) 3.10 Hollywoods. (R) 5.15 Brain Damage. (R) 5.20 Countdown. (R)**

### CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 Power Rangers Samurai. 10.35 Batman: The Brave and the Bold. 11.10 Emergency Bikers. (R) 12.10 Cowboy Builders. (R) 1.10 Film: Mystery Woman. (2003) Whodunit, starring Kellie Martin. 2.50 David Copperfield. (R) 6.20 5 News Weekend. 6.25 Film: Wyatt Earp. (1994) The life of the legendary lawman, from his early youth to his days as the feared and respected town marshal who engineered the gunfight at the OK Corral, a tragic confrontation with a notorious outlaw gang. Western, starring Kevin Costner. 10.00 CSI: Miami. Three men are released from prison after being cleared of a 1992 murder – but one of them is found dead shortly afterwards, and the clues suggest a link to the original crime. 10.55 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. The discovery of a body in a chimney leads Catherine and Warrick to reopen inquiries into the disappearance of a teenage girl. (R) 11.55 Inside Hollywood. Magazine show, with location reports, news and views from behind the scenes. (R) 12.00 SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. 4.00 HouseBusters. Life-enhancing changes to a home. (R) 4.25 Divine Designs. Churches designed by Christopher Wren. Last in the series. (R) 4.50 County Secrets. (R) 5.00 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.10 The Milkshake Show. Shake makes lunch for everyone. (R) 5.35 Thomas & Friends. (R) 5.45 Roary the Racing Car. Big Chris appears on TV. (R)**

### DIGITAL

**BBC Three**

**7.00 Great Movie Mistakes 8.00 Top Gear 9.00 Live at the Apollo 10.00 Greg Davies: Firing Cheeseballs at a Dog 11.00 Family Guy 11.45 American Dad!**

**BBC Four**

**7.00 Human Planet 8.00 Mission to Mars: A Horizon Special 9.00 Inspector Montalbano 10.40 The InterCity 125: The Age of the Train 11.40 The Three Rocketeers**

**ITV2**

**3.05 The X Factor 4.05 The Xtra Factor 5.10 Film: Cool Runnings (1993) 7.05 Film: Dragonheart (1996) 9.10 The X Factor 10.10 Celebrity Juice 10.55 Film: Happy Gilmore (1996)**

**ITV3**

**2.55 Agatha Christie's Poirot 5.00 Downton Abbey 7.00 Foyle's War 9.00 Midsomer Murders 11.00 Crime Connections**

**ITV4**

**3.15 British Superbike Championship Highlights 4.15 Film: Support Your Local Gunfighter (1971) 6.15 The World's Wildest Police Videos 7.00 Cycling: Tour of Britain 8.00 River Monsters 9.00 Film: The Game (1997) 11.35 Film: The Exorcist (1973)**

**E4**

**3.50 Film: Home Alone 2: Lost in New York (1992) 6.15 The Big Bang Theory 7.10 How I Met Your Mother 8.10 Rules of Engagement 9.10 Film: Wedding Crashers (2005) 11.30 The Inbetweeners**

**Film4**

**2.50 Caroline (2009) 4.55 Roman Holiday (1953) 7.15 Laws of Attraction (2004) Romantic comedy, with Pierce Brosnan and Julianne Moore. 9.00 Patriot Games (1992) Political thriller, starring Harrison Ford. 11.15 Scary Movie (2000)**

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## What's On!

## SUNDAY'S TV 16.09.12

## CHOICE



**Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers**  
Channel 5, 11.25am  
Channel 5 loves a good trucking programme – a quick glance through the schedules will show you that. The adventures of a bunch of highly paid, death-defying Canadians and Americans driving their cargo to and from some of the most inhospitable places on Earth in Ice Road Truckers has been little short of jaw-dropping. This home-grown offering is a lot less do-or-die, but it still makes for good viewing. In this episode, a trucking convoy journeys through the Alps on a 1200-mile trip to deliver tyres to a Formula One test race in Italy.

## BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **8.30** The Andrew Marr Show. **9.30** Live Athletics. **1.30** BBC News: Weather. **1.45** Bargain Hunt. (R) **2.30** Cash in the Attic. (R) **3.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **4.00** Lifestyle. **4.10** Points of View. **4.25** Songs of Praise. **5.00** Planet Earth Live: A Lion's Tale.  
**6.00** BBC News: Regional News: Weather.  
**6.30** Fake or Fortune? New series. Fiona Bruce and expert Philip Mould investigate art with mysterious origins, beginning by helping a man who believes he owns a painting by French artist Edgar Degas.  
**7.30** Countryfile. Matt Baker explores the beauty of the Nottinghamshire countryside, as captured through the writing of DH Lawrence, and Adam Henson goes shepherding in the Swiss Alps. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.  
**8.30** Inspector George Gently. The detective is accused of fabricating evidence against an old adversary and a former colleague from London arrives to offer his support. With Kevin Whately. Last in the series.  
**10.00** BBC News: Regional News: Weather.  
**10.25** Match of the Day 2.  
**11.15** In with the Flynns. Liam goes snooping round a neighbour's home. (R)  
**11.45** Film: Two for the Money. (2005) Gambling drama, with Al Pacino.  
**1.40** Weatherview. **1.45** Sign Zone: Snowdonia – A Year in the Wild. (R) **2.45** Valley City. (R) **3.45** Good Cop. (R) **4.45** BBC News.

## BBC2

**6.00** CBeebies. **7.00** CBBC. **7.30** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** CBBC. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bits. **11.30** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **12.30** Live MotoGP. **2.00** Live Golf: The Women's British Open. **5.00** One Man and His Dog – LIVE!  
**6.15** Rugby League.  
**7.15** Richard Hammond's Crash Course. The host visits Dallas-Fort Worth Airport in Texas for an encounter with the Striker – the world's most powerful fire engine – and experiences the training its crew must undergo.  
**8.00** China on Four Wheels. Anita Rani and Justin Rowlett explore the contrasting faces of modern China on the concluding leg of their journey to Shanghai, including potholed roads and a wine chateau.  
**9.00** Dragons' Den. A Welsh grandmother charms the Dragons as she tries to secure investment for her food website, while the usual rules of the Den are disregarded during a pitch for a haircare brand.  
**10.00** Mock the Week. Radio 4 favourite Milton Jones and Irish comedian Ed Byrne join Dara O Briain, Hugh Dennis, Andy Parsons and Chris Addison for another round of the satirical news quiz. (R)  
**10.30** Hilary Devey's Women at the Top. Conclusion. The entrepreneur explores ways to help women prosper in the workplace, and assesses the effectiveness of policies instituted by some of Britain's biggest companies. (R)  
**11.30** Athletics.  
**12.10** BBC News. **4.05** Close.

## ITV1

**6.00** CITV: CITV. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** House Gift. (R) **10.25** There's No Taste Like Home. (R) **11.25** The Hungry Sailors. (R) **12.20** ITV News: Weather. **12.30** The X Factor. (R) **1.35** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **2.30** Film: Columbo: A Bird in the Hand. (1992) **4.25** Doc Martin. (R) **5.25** The Talent Show Story. (R) **6.25** Regional Programme: Weather.  
**6.45** ITV News: Weather.  
**7.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. Dan Lobb, Jodie Prenger, Chris Packham and Jennie McAlpine try to win thousands of pounds for charity by outwitting one of the show's resident trivia experts.  
**8.00** The X Factor. Judges Gary Barlow, Nicole Scherzinger, Tulisa and Louis Walsh continue their search for a new singing sensation by putting more hopefuls through their paces.  
**9.00** Downland Abbey. New series. Cora's mother Martha (Shirley MacLaine) arrives at Downland for Matthew and Mary's wedding – but the couple are struggling to stay united ahead of their big day.  
**10.30** ITV News: Weather.  
**10.45** Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Roger Moore. The actor recalls the highs and lows of his acting career and personal life, lifts the lid on his four marriages and tells the story of his upbringing in south London. (R)  
**11.50** Premiership Rugby Union. **12.45** The Store. ITV News Headlines. **2.45** British Superbike Championship Highlights. **3.40** Motorsport UK. **4.30** ITV Nightscreen. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

## CHANNEL 4

**6.05** The Treacle People. (R) **6.15** The Hoobs. (R) **6.40** Ironman 2012. **7.05** Strathclyde Park Triathlon. **8.00** Will & Grace. (R) **8.25** Will & Grace. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.25** Frasier. (R) **10.00** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.30** The Simpsons. (R) **2.00** Film: The Spy Next Door. (2010) **3.45** Deal or No Deal. **4.45** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **5.20** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. **5.55** Come Dine with Me: Ireland.  
**6.20** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. A nervous Emma Carr hosts her first-ever dinner party, with a caricaturist helping to show her guests' true colours.  
**6.50** Come Dine with Me: Ireland. Martin Butler hosts the final dinner party in Dublin. Last in the series.  
**7.20** Channel 4 News.  
**7.50** 4Thought. A Buddhist nun explains how art helped her find peace.  
**7.55** The Political Slot. With Green Party of England and Wales leader Natalie Bennett.  
**8.00** Fatal Flight 447: Chaos in the Cockpit. The facts behind the crash of the Air France flight in June 2009.  
**9.00** Big Fat Quiz of the 80s. New series. Jimmy Carr grills celebrities on decades gone by, beginning with the 1980s. Jonathan Ross, Jason Manford, Micky Flanagan and Stephen Mangan answer the questions.  
**10.35** Alan Carr: Chatty Man. With Pink and Gok Wan. (R)  
**11.40** Shameless. (R)  
**12.45** American Football Live. **4.45** Deal or No Deal. (R) **5.40** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)

## CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowells. (R) **6.25** City of Friends. (R) **6.40** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.50** Castle Farm. (R) **6.55** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **7.05** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.25** Play! (R) **7.35** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.50** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Angelina Ballerina. **8.40** Rupert Bear. (R) **8.55** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Toby's Travelling Circus. **9.25** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Jelly Jamm. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.10** Looney Tunes. (R) **11.15** Looney Tunes. (R) **11.25** Eddie Stobart: Trucks and Trailers. (R) **12.25** Film: Capricorn One. (1977) **2.45** Film: The Fifth Element. (1997) **5.05** Film: Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory. (1971)  
**7.10** 5 News Weekend.  
**7.15** Film: Jackie Chan's The Medallion. (2003) Comedy adventure, starring Jackie Chan, Lee Evans and Claire Forani.  
**9.00** Film: Swordfish. (2001) A computer hacker is recruited by a former anti-terrorist agent to embezzle millions from the US government. Thriller, with John Travolta, Hugh Jackman.  
**11.00** Film: Desperado. (1995) Action thriller, starring Antonio Banderas.  
**1.00** SuperCasino. **4.00** The FBI Files. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

## DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** Be Your Own Boss **8.00** Film: Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull (2008) **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** Bad Education **11.15** American Dad!  
**BBC Four**  
**7.00** Julia Bradbury's Canal Walks **7.30** The Story of Light Entertainment **9.00** The Pharaoh Who Conquered the Sea **10.00** Film: Loose Cannons (2010) **11.45** British Passions on Film  
**ITV2**  
**3.00** Film: Dennis (1993) **4.50** The X Factor **5.55** The Xtra Factor **6.55** Film: Dante's Peak (1997) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00** Film: Hot Fuzz (2007)  
**ITV3**  
**5.05** Film: On the Buses (1971) **6.55** Lewis. A woman's murder is copied from the pages of a novel. **9.00** Film: Rain Man (1988) **11.45** Cracker  
**ITV4**  
**2.30** Live Cycling: Tour of Britain. Stage eight from Reigate to Guildford. **4.30** Police, Camera, Action! **5.00** Film: Weekend at Bernie's (1989) **7.00** Cycling: Tour of Britain **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** An Audience with Billy Connolly **10.10** Film: Coogan's Bluff (1968)  
**E4**  
**3.50** New Girl **4.20** Suburgatory **4.50** Revenge **5.50** The Big Bang Theory **7.40** Film: Ever After: A Cinderella Story (1998) **10.00** The Inbetweeners **11.05** 2 Broke Girls **11.35** New Girl  
**Film4**  
**3.20** Von Ryan's Express (1965) **5.35** Dr Dolittle (1998) **7.15** Stormbreaker (2006) **9.00** Clear and Present Danger (1994) Action thriller, with Harrison Ford. **11.45** Good Luck Chuck (2007)

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## What's On!

### Film Choices

#### MONDAY

**Out of Time, Channel 5, 10pm**

The chief of police in a small Florida town is having an affair with a married woman who is dying of cancer. When his lover and her abusive husband are both murdered, he becomes the prime suspect in the case – and his ex-wife is appointed as the investigating officer. Crime thriller, starring Denzel Washington, Eva Mendes, Dean Cain and Sanaa Lathan. (2003)

#### TUESDAY

**Trust the Man, BBC1, 11.45pm**

Two Manhattan-based couples hit a rocky patch in their relationships. Husband and wife Tom and Rebecca look to therapy and counselling to try to save their ailing marriage, while Tobey and Elaine decide to go their separate ways after seven difficult years together. Comedy drama, with David Duchovny, Julianne Moore, Billy Crudup and Maggie Gyllenhaal. (2005)

#### WEDNESDAY

**Full Metal Jacket, ITV1, 10.35pm**

Raw Marine recruits undergo gruelling basic training for the Vietnam War under the command of a domineering drill sergeant whose methods lead to the breakdown of one of his cadets. Eventually, some of the fully trained soldiers get their first taste of combat in 1968. Stanley Kubrick's drama, starring Matthew Modine, Adam Baldwin, Vincent D'Onofrio and R Lee Ermey. (1987)



Casino Royale, Friday, ITV1, 10.35pm

#### THURSDAY

**Taken in Broad Daylight, BBC1, 11.35pm**

Fact-based thriller about a teenage girl who is kidnapped and held hostage for six days. However, far from cracking up during her traumatic experience, she keeps her wits about her, manipulating her captor and leaving subtle clues for the police to ensure rescue as the abductor moves her across state lines. Fact-based thriller, with Sara Canning, James Van Der Beek, LeVar Burton and Diana Reis. (2009)

#### FRIDAY

**Casino Royale, ITV1, 10.35pm**

James Bond achieves his '00' status and is dispatched on the trail of Le Chiffre, an international criminal financing terrorist organisations around the world. Bond's investigation leads to a casino in Montenegro, where he takes part in a high-stakes poker game in a bid to bankrupt Le Chiffre and put an end to his plans. Spy thriller, directed by Martin Campbell and starring Daniel Craig in his first outing as 007, with Eva Green, Mads Mikkelsen, Judi Dench and Giancarlo Giannini. (2006)

### Pick of the Week

## Family matters are set to complicate events

The First World War is over, Sybil is pregnant with her first child and Mary is about to marry Matthew.

So, as we enter 1920, everything is well in the Crawley family's world, right?

Well, not exactly – after all, this is a TV drama, so misery, scandal, backbiting, chaos and tragedy can only be just around the corner.

Certainly life at Downton Abbey may never be the same again – Bates remains in jail after being wrongly convicted of his wife's murder, and butler Carson is struggling to find the 'right' kind of person to join the staff; it seems that the war has changed everything and people are no longer happy to spend their lives waiting hand and foot on wealthy aristocrats, not when they may have a chance to make something of themselves.

Of course the biggest news from this third series is that Oscar-winning Hollywood megastar Shirley MacLaine is joining the cast as Cora's redoubtable mother, Martha Levinson, who makes the journey across the

Atlantic for the big Crawley wedding.

"In those days the American women who had money were looking for American money," explains MacLaine. "So Martha fits the bill of the American matriarch who lands across the pond with money. And they expect her to finance whatever's wrong with Downton Abbey."

The actress, whose previous projects include such massive cinematic hits as Sweet Charity, Terms of Endearment, The Apartment and Steel Magnolias, will only be appearing in a handful of episodes, but is sure that her character will live long in the memory.

"She is extremely outspoken. Martha's basic role in these episodes is to plead with the Dowager Countess to wrest herself, if possible, away from tradition, because that's what caused the war in the first place, and to become more flexible in relating to change."

What viewers are looking forward to is seeing MacLaine and Maggie Smith (who plays the Dowager Countess), lock horns on screen – after all, they

are two of the acting game's most formidable, experienced and talented women.

But MacLaine lets us down slightly by claiming there won't be fireworks between them: "The gunfight at the OK Corral does not happen between Maggie and me. We do a little sparring. We have our moments, but it's more sophisticated than that. Martha is not just a crass, cranky American coming in there to call a spade a spade. She's very smart and to a large extent, sensitive as to what's going on with all her daughter's children."

"And Maggie's character is so well established, but you have to look beyond what is her expected reaction to Martha. The Dowager Countess is a human being who has complications and a past of some pain that Martha understands – and to some extent addresses herself to."

MacLaine does, however, admit that she had a grand old time, and especially enjoyed filming at Highclere Castle, which doubles as Downton.

She's also sure we're going to enjoy watching her character in action – and, frankly, we can't wait to see her.



Shirley MacLaine stars in Downton Abbey, Sunday, ITV1, 9pm

### Best of the Rest

#### MONDAY

**Paul O'Grady: For the Love of Dogs**  
ITV1, 8pm

Like Animal Hospital before it, this show tugs on the heartstrings with more skill than a seasoned cellist, but it's Paul O'Grady's quick wit and no-nonsense approach that makes it more than just an attempt to grab ratings. Once more POG is working with the canines at the world famous Battersea Dogs & Cats Home, and has his hands full when a behaviourist enlists him to work with a Rottweiler-bull mastiff cross with a fear of men. (Maybe Paul should adopt the guise of former alias Lily Savage). Plus, clinic workers attempt to find a home for two dogs that have developed a close friendship, and the centre receives a visit from model and centre ambassador David Gandy.

#### TUESDAY

**Derren Brown: Svengali**  
Channel 4, 9pm

He's back. Channel 4's favourite illusionist who has spent the past decade fronting shows such as Miracles for Sale, Derren Brown: Mind Control, and Messiah. A few months ago DB took his award-winning show to Nottingham's Theatre Royal, where he attempted to extract secret confessions from the audience, played unforgettable mind games and revealed the wonder of Svengali – an automaton allegedly created in the image of its owner's dead son. Was it used in early Victorian magic shows, or is it another of Brown's eerie games? Tune in to this unnerving gig and make up your own mind.

**The Rob Brydon Show**  
BBC2, 10pm

It may have been in the pipeline for five years but a film version of classic cops and robbers saga The Sweeney has finally made it onto the big screen after a few false starts. Star Ray Winstone is doing his best to ensure everybody knows about it, so, aside from plugging the movie, he attempts to teach Rob how to act tough. Also this week, Brian Cox will be discussing his efforts to make science accessible for everyone. And as this series often seems like just an excuse for Rob Brydon to have a singalong with some of his celebrity mates, he'll no doubt jump at the chance to share the musical spotlight with Stereophonics singer Kelly Jones.

#### WEDNESDAY

**Mrs Biggs**  
ITV1, 9pm

Plenty of people wrote off this drama before it even began – after all, the story of The Great Train Robbery had already been told many times, what more could be said? As it turns out, plenty. The tale of Charmian Biggs, wife of the notorious Ronnie, has been enthralling so far, and it takes more twists and turns here. After having an affair and an abortion, Charmian helps plan Ronnie's escape and the family relocate to Australia. She falls pregnant again with their third son, and life seems to be getting back on track – until events back home suggest the police

haven't given up hope of finding the Biggs' just yet. Sheridan Smith and Danny Mays star.

**Dallas**  
Channel 5, 9pm

Hurray! JR's arch enemy Cliff Barnes is back for the first time in more than 15 years, and it's just like old times. After the smirking oil baron calmly scuppers John Ross's plan to double-cross him, JR decides to move back to Southfork. However, the Ewings are faced with more problems when Cliff resurfaces and tries to reconnect with his nephew Christopher. Elsewhere, Tommy has intriguing news for Rebecca.

**THURSDAY**  
**Good Cop**  
BBC1, 9pm

Few actors who've left the bright lights of Chester's Hollybros behind in search of a good, meaty role in telly have actually found it. But clearly with Warren Brown we're dealing with a whole different kettle of fish – and he's settled into the role of PC Paul Rocksavage rather nicely. But like all good things, this series must come to an end. In the final instalment, Sav seems to be having a bit of trouble with not

letting his emotions get in the way of his work; in fact, his quest to get Jonjo arrested for Andy's murder draws suspicion from Costello and Sarge. But it's only when a set-up with Amanda goes very wrong, that the cop decides to do things his way...

**FRIDAY**  
**Parade's End**  
BBC2, 9pm

Given Benedict Cumberbatch's piping hot status, it was a curious decision by the BBC to take a drama adapted by internationally acclaimed writer Tom Stoppard and then put it on BBC2 on a Friday night. If ever a show had a prime-time Sunday night slot stamped all over it, it was this one. Now the final part of the tale based on Ford Madox Ford's quartet of novels sees Christopher sent to the front line of the First World War with McKechnie and Perowne, while Valentine waits for news from him. And Sylvia makes a final desperate bid to win back his love.

**Being Liverpool**  
Channel 5, 9pm

It's been a difficult summer for Liverpool. Kop favourite Kenny Dalglish left the club for a second time, and Brendan Rogers was poached from Swansea City. Sadly the first few games of the new season haven't exactly gone to plan – with some fans pinpointing the club's inability to sign a new striker at the heart of the team's problems. So, with turmoil on and off the pitch, this new, six-part series should prove fascinating. Filming began just days after Liverpool's defeat to Chelsea in the FA Cup final, and cameras have been allowed full access to all aspects of the club and players.



Derren Brown: Svengali, Tuesday, Channel 4, 9pm

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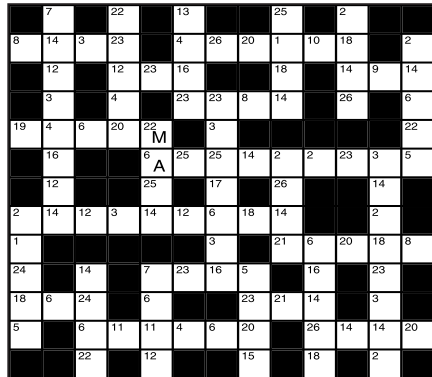
## What's On!

## Brain Gym

No.186

## Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

O	B	S	N	V	G	P	U	F	Q	Y	D	Z
W	K	L	T	C	X	J	R	A	I	M	H	E

## Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

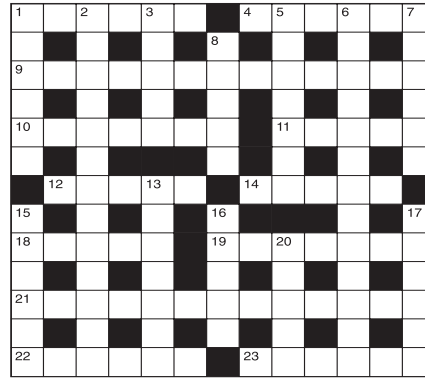
## Cryptic Clues:

## Across

1. I put in a call for ventilation (6)
4. It's always one thing or the other (6)
9. The bird song that wakes you at dawn? (7,6)
10. The height of a severe storm (7)
11. Flier has a sash in the Royal Navy (5)
12. You're going places if they're in the right direction (5)
14. It may be trodden on in flight (5)
18. Inferior ox, for example (5)
19. Citizen under discussion (7)
21. It helps to drive one round the bend (8,5)
22. Passes on the messages about the races? (6)
23. A guess about customs (6)

## Down

1. An abnormal appetite, no argument about that (6)
2. In turn it benefits the lucky gambler (8,5)
3. I've an arrangement that's simple (5)
5. Get what is left (7)
6. Though yellow at heart, it won't run (4-6,3)
7. Mounting a revolt, perhaps (6)
8. An entrance of ornamental stone (5)
13. Show a beam that is left (7)
15. A cloister will be more confined without it (6)
16. Employing some various ingredients (5)
17. Illicit photographs? (6)
20. They are certainly biased but game (5)



## Quick Clues:

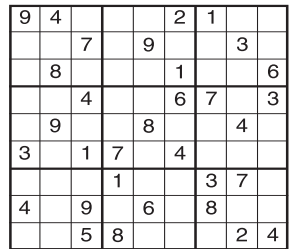
## Across

1. Condition (6)
4. Over-indulge (6)
9. Remonstrance (13)
10. Anguish (7)
11. Abide (5)
12. Suppress (5)
14. Not suitable (5)
18. Of a town (5)
19. Lean (7)
21. Theme (7-6)
22. Happenings (6)
23. Astral (6)

## Down

1. Abundance (6)
2. Calm (13)
3. Hurry (5)
5. Forsake (7)
6. Premier (5,8)
7. Fester (6)
8. Out of practice (5)
13. Merciful (7)
15. Chase (6)
16. Hackneyed (5)
17. Cordial (6)
20. Sea-map (5)

## Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

## LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS &gt;

1	3	5	1	0	9	6	7	2
9	4	6	1	2	7	3	5	8
2	8	7	5	6	3	1	9	4
4	1	9	8	3	5	7	2	6
3	6	8	7	9	2	4	1	5
7	5	2	6	1	4	9	8	3
8	2	4	9	7	6	3	1	5
5	7	3	2	4	1	8	6	9
6	9	1	3	5	8	2	4	7

LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS: CRYPTIC - Across: 1 Happy landing; 7 Reset; 8 Nurse; 9 Gig; 10 Calendars; 11 Relief; 12 Eclair; 15 Eye-opener; 17 Ash; 18 Extra; 19 Idled; 21 Broken hearts. Down: Head gardener; 2 Yes; 3 Atilla; 4 Dining-car; 5 Norma; 6 Leisure hours; 7 Regal; 10 Cheapskate; 13 Award; 14 Ensign; 16 Enter; 20 Lee. QUICK - Across: 1 Illumination; 7 Foyer; 8 Steer; 9 Fee; 10 Shakespear; 11 Exhume; 12 Porter; 15 Animosity; 17 Asp; 18 Litho; 19 Level; 21 Protestation. Down: 1 Insufferable; 2 May; 3 Normal; 4 Testimony; 5 Obese; 6 Prescription; 7 Fresh; 10 Somnolent; 13 Trail; 14 Titles; 16 Inter; 20 Via. LAST WEEK'S CIRCLED SOLUTION: The letter represented by the question mark is C. Coventry, Lincoln, Carlisle, all English cities.

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**The top property guide for: Dudley, Stourbridge, Halesowen and Kidderminster**

## Open plan living on a split-level

**A SPLIT-level detached house offering spacious and flexible living accommodation in Northway, Sedgley, is on the market priced at £269,950.**

The property has balconies to the front and rear with views to the distant Shropshire Hills, and also benefits from uPVC double glazing, gas central heating, ample off street parking, a two-car garage and landscaped gardens.

Situated in a popular residential area the house is well placed for a wide variety of amenities to be found in Sedgley and on Northway, yet close to open countryside and within easy commuting distance of all major West Midlands commercial centres.

On the ground floor are three bedrooms and a bathroom with corner bath, wash hand basin in vanity unit, separates shower cubicle with electric shower and low level WC.

On the lower ground floor is bedroom four/study, a cloakroom with wash hand basin and low level WC and a utility room with a range of base cupboards, work surfaces and wall cupboards, one and a half bowl stainless steel sink with mixer taps and provision for washing machine.

### Balconies

On the first floor is a lounge and dining area, 27ft 2in by 16ft 2in, with French windows to the front and rear and both leading onto balconies. There is also a kitchen, 9ft 10in by 7ft and fitted with a range of units including inset one and half bowl stainless steel sink with mixer taps, base cupboards, drawer unit, work surfaces, wall cupboards, built-in double oven with hob and cooker hood over and integrated fridge and freezer.

Outside is a lawned front garden with mature shrubs and a tarmac driveway providing of street parking and leading to the garage, while a gated side entrance leads to a landscaped rear garden with patio, shaped lawn, shrubs and pergola.

For more details, contact Wakeman on 01902 885 894.



A driveway, providing ample off-road parking, leads to the unusual home



Enjoy open plan living at this split-level home in Northway, Sedgley

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### CASTLE ROAD EAST, OLDBURY



4 bed extended & detached family home  
3 reception rooms & 16ft breakfast kitchen  
Sun room, utility & d/s WC  
En-suite shower room & family bathroom  
Garage, driveway & large gardens  
UPVC DG & GCH

£325,000 Ref: D940

### WOLVERHAMPTON ROAD, OLDBURY



Spacious link-detached home  
22ft lounge/diner & 14ft breakfast kitchen  
3 bedrooms & family bathroom  
Garage & driveway to front  
Extensive lawned garden  
No upward chain

£199,950 Ref: D1228

### APSLEY ROAD, OLDBURY



Extended 4 bed semi  
Large Kitchen with dining room off  
Lounge & separate sitting room  
4 beds, shower room & 2nd WC  
Parking to front & enclosed rear garden  
UPVC DBG, GCH & alarm

£189,950 Ref: D1230

### LEWIS ROAD, OLDBURY



Extended 3 bed semi detached home  
Refitted 15ft kitchen  
Lounge & separate dining room  
Refitted bathroom & WC  
UPVC DG & GCH  
Garage to rear

£134,950 Ref: D1232

### FERDALE ROAD, OLDBURY



Spacious 3 bed home  
Lounge & kitchen diner  
Further room ripe for conversion  
3 bedrooms & bathroom  
Block paved driveway for two cars  
Enclosed rear garden with workshop

£109,950 Ref: D1227

### HAGLEY ROAD WEST, OLDBURY



End terraced home with gardens  
2 double bedrooms & bathroom  
2 separate reception rooms  
Kitchen & lean to utility room  
UPVC DG & GCH  
Courtyard & lawned garden

£109,950 Ref: D1225

### WELBECK CLOSE, HALESOWEN



5 double bedroom detached home  
Sought after cul-de-sac location  
3 reception rooms with annexe  
Refitted 19ft breakfast kitchen  
2 en-suites, bathroom & d/s WC  
Garage & gardens with private aspect

£375,000 Ref: D801

### JACKSON WAY, QUINTON



Large semi in popular area  
21ft (max) lounge, downstairs WC  
20ft open plan dining kitchen/family rm  
3 good size bedrooms & large bathroom  
Benefitting gas central heating & majority DBG  
ORP, integral garage & gardens

£154,950 Ref: D1220

### PRINCES WAY, OLDBURY



Spacious 3 double bedroom home  
15ft lounge/diner & UPVC conservatory  
Fitted kitchen & downstairs WC  
Family bathroom & ensuite shower rm  
Parking spaces in cul-de-sac location  
UPVC DG & GCH

£149,950 Ref: D1207

### POTTERY ROAD, OLDBURY



Spacious & well presented home  
14ft lounge and 11ft dining room  
Refitted kitchen and 16ft lean to utility  
Refitted bathroom - white suite & 3 beds  
Rear garage & lawned garden  
Double glazed and gas central heating

£144,950 Ref: D1217

### BLACKTHORNE ROAD, SMETWICK



Double fronted semi det in cul-de-sac  
17ft lounge & separate dining room  
Fitted kitchen, utility room & DS WC  
3 bedrooms & refitted shower room  
Block paved driveway  
UPVC double glazing & GCH

£139,950 Ref: D1201

### PARSONS HILL, OLDBURY



Lounge, kitchen and downstairs WC  
16ft 4 conservatory/dining room  
Three bedrooms and bathroom  
Off road parking for multiple vehicles  
Large rear garden with SW aspect  
UPVC double glazing & gas central heating

£134,950 Ref: D1192

### CASTLE ROAD WEST, OLDBURY



Extended 3 bed home with driveway  
24ft lounge diner & refitted kitchen  
UPVC conservatory with utility  
Upstairs shower room & d/s WC  
Gardens to rear with southerly aspect  
No chain, UPVC DG & GCH

£129,950 Ref: D1191

### MARSHWOOD CROFT, HALESOWEN



Immaculate & extended det 4 bed home  
Lounge diner, fitted kitchen & utility room  
Master bedroom & refitted en-suite  
3 further bedrooms & family shower room  
Garage & block paved driveway to front  
Lawned private gardens to rear

£249,950 Ref: D1219

### HOLLY ROAD, OLDBURY



3 bed semi in need of some updating  
UPVC, DBG fascias & soffit & GCH  
Vacant possession - no upward chain  
Lounge, kitchen/dining room, D/S bathroom  
Three bedrooms & WC on first floor  
Off road parking to front, large rear garden

£124,950 Ref: D1208

### SEEDHOUSE COURT, CRADLEY HEATH



Spacious first floor flat with 2 double beds  
Secluded position over looking woodland  
Lounge & kitchen - with woodland views  
Communal rear gardens - allocated parking  
Fitted with gas central heating & combi boiler  
Vacant possession - No upward chain

£79,950 Ref: D1046

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#### HALESOWEN, BROMSGROVE ROAD

Located in a semi rural location, is this nice unfurnished traditional semi detached house, comprising of: Two Reception Rooms, Three Bedrooms, Fitted Kitchen with Utility Area, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, House Bathroom with Shower, Driveway Parking, Lovely Rear Garden with Decking Area

**£725 PCM**



#### HALESOWEN, TOYS LANE

This 3 storey 1880's Victorian town house, ideally located for bus routes to Halesowen, Stourbridge and Merry Hill, close to local shops and situated in the catchment area for Coley Lane Primary School. Comprising of: Two Reception Rooms, Brand New Fitted Kitchen, 5 Double Bedrooms, Master Bedroom with En Suite, 1 Bathroom with Fitted Shower, Rear Garden, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Parking on Road or Car Park Opposite.

**£695 PCM**



#### HALESOWEN, MAYFIELD ROAD

An unfurnished detached house in this very popular residential area close to schools and bus links comprising of: Large Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Conservatory, Two Double & One Large Single Bedroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Garage, New Carpets Throughout. Quiet Cul-De-Sac Position. Available End of September.

**£695 PCM**



#### ROWLEY REGIS, ALWIN ROAD

An unfurnished modern detached house, close to local shops, briefly comprising of: Two Reception Rooms, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Downstairs WC, Three Bedrooms, Master Bedroom with En-Suite, Bathroom with Shower, Garage and Driveway Parking, Gardens, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing

**£695 PCM**



#### STOURBRIDGE, WHEELER STREET

A traditional three bedroom mid terraced property in a popular residential area and comprising of: Front Reception Room with Original Marble Fireplace, Back Reception Room, Fitted Kitchen, Downstairs Bathroom with Shower, Two Large Bedrooms and One Large Single, Lovely Rear Garden, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, On Road Parking, Available Immediately.

**£650 PCM**



#### ROWLEY REGIS, PEARTREE DRIVE

Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac and close to the M5, is this modern unfurnished detached house, comprising of: One Reception Room, Fitted Kitchen with Dining Area, Downstairs WC, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Three Bedrooms, House Bathroom, Master Bedroom with En-Suite, Garage and Driveway Parking, Gardens

**£625 PCM**



#### HALESOWEN, HIGHFIELD ROAD

A short walk away from local buses and shops, is this lovely 3 bed terrace family home benefitting from GCH and DG and comprising of: Two Reception Rooms, Beautiful Fitted Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Family Bathroom with Shower, Rear Family Garden and Garage Parking.

**£575 PCM**



#### QUINTON, RUTLEY GROVE

Semi Detached House Comprising of: Large Lounge/Dining Area, Fitted Kitchen with Appliances, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Separate WC, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Available End of September.

**£575 PCM**



#### CRADLEY HEATH, WRIGHTS LANE

A short distance from Old Hill shops and local train station is this well presented unfurnished semi detached house, comprising of: Three Bedrooms, Modern Fitted Diner Kitchen, Lounge, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, House Bathroom with Shower, Rear Garden, On Road Parking to Front.

**£575 PCM**



#### HALESOWEN, HIGHLAND HOUSE

Located just off Graham Road, is this very large, fully refurbished ground floor flat, comprising of: Two Large Bedrooms, New Fitted Kitchen, Modern Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Allocated Parking, Garage, Communal Gardens, Unfurnished

**£550 PCM**



#### BRIERLEY HILL, WALLAWS ROAD

An unfurnished semi-detached home, briefly comprising of: Three Good Size Bedrooms, Spacious Lounge, Large Dining Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Front and Large Rear Gardens, On Road Parking

**£550 PCM**



#### STOURBRIDGE, PROSPECT GARDENS

Located close to Stourbridge Town Centre, is this unfurnished mid terraced house, comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Fitted Dining Kitchen, Cosy Lounge, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Bathroom with Shower, Small Rear Garden, Parking Space to Front

**£525 PCM**



#### CRADLEY HEATH, LUANNE CLOSE

Situated in this popular residential area, is this first floor apartment, which overlooks the canal and has its own balcony, comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Spacious Lounge, Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Access to Balcony from the Master Bedroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Allocated Parking, Well Worth an Inspection

**£525 PCM**



#### CRADLEY HEATH, NORWOOD AVENUE

An Unfurnished semi detached house in this popular residential area comprising of: Large Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Private Rear Garden, On Street Parking, Available End of September.

**£495 PCM**



#### HALESOWEN, BANNERS STREET

A mid terrace property which has been refurbished, comprises of: Two Double Bedrooms, Brand New Fitted Kitchen, Two Reception Rooms, White Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Large Garden with Decking Area, On Road Parking, Available Immediately.

**£495 PCM**



#### CRADLEY HEATH, HALAS COURT

An unfurnished third floor apartment, close to local shops, train station, and bus routes, briefly comprising of: Lounge, Fitted Kitchen with Appliances, Two Bedrooms, Brand New Fitted Kitchen, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Gardens, Electronic Gates leading to Secure Parking Area, Internal Inspection Recommended

**£495 PCM**



#### OLDBURY, KELLNER GARDENS

An unfurnished ground floor flat, briefly comprising of: Electric Storage Heating, Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Master Bedroom with En-Suite Shower Room, House Bathroom, Secure Allocated Parking Space

**£475 PCM**



#### HALESOWEN, SHENSTONE FLATS

An unfurnished second floor flat, close to local shops and bus routes, briefly comprising of: Two Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Living Room, Kitchen and Storage Area, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Garden, Parking

**£450 PCM**



#### CRADLEY HEATH, ELBOW STREET

Situated in a quiet location, within walking distance to Old Hill town and local train station is this unfurnished first floor flat, comprising of: Electric Storage Heating, Large Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, One Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Gardens, Allocated Parking.

**£450 PCM**



#### OLDBURY, CAUSEWAY GREEN ROAD

This large, split level flat above shops, within walking distance to bus links and close to J2 of the M5, briefly comprising of: Gas Central Heating, Spacious Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Two Double Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Parking to Rear, Unfurnished £400 for the 1st 6 months and £425 after

**£400 PCM**



#### HALESOWEN, APPERLEY WAY

Located on the popular development of the Homer Hill Estate, is this spacious first floor apartment which has been redecorated and new carpets fitted, briefly comprising of: Living Room, Fitted Kitchen, Double Bedroom, Bathroom with Shower, Communal Gardens, Allocated Parking

**£350 PCM**

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# Five-bedroomed home is on sale for £259,950

**AN extended five bedroom detached family home in a sought-after area of Dudley is for sale with a price tag of £259,950.**

Enjoying views to the front of Priory Park and towards the Dudley Castle the property in Woodland Avenue benefits from majority gas central heating and part double glazing.

On the ground floor is a cloakroom with WC and pedestal wash hand basin, a study measuring 10ft 9in by 6ft 4in and a combined lounge and dining room – 25ft 6in by 12ft 6in – with a fireplace and gas fire.

A family kitchen with breakfast area, 20ft 11in by 13ft 1in, has an extensive range of wall and base cupboards, display units, integral wine rack, roll edge work surfaces, stainless steel sink with mixer tap and water filter tap and stainless steel cooker hood, and there is also a walk-in pantry.

On the first floor are five bedrooms and a bathroom with bath, shower cubicle with electric shower, pedestal wash hand basin and WC.

Outside the property is approached via a tarmac driveway with parking for several cars and leading to a garage, and there is a lawned front garden with shrub borders.

There are lawned gardens to the side and rear with shrub borders, a small ornamental pool and garden shed.

For more details, contact Wakeman on 01902 885 894.



This home in Woodland Avenue has views that take in nearby Dudley Castle



The large family kitchen includes many wall and base units plus dining area

# Modernised semi-detached which is priced at £105,000



The kitchen has a range of contemporary wall and base units



Focal point- the lounge has a fireplace with flame-effect gas fire

**A SIGNIFICANTLY modernised and improved semi-detached house in Sedgley which benefits from gas central heating and uPVC double glazing is on the market based on offers in the region of £105,000.**

The agents say that personal inspection is vital to fully appreciate the accommodation at the property in Monument Lane, with a refitted kitchen, re-appointed bathroom and landscaped gardens.

On the ground floor the lounge, 15ft 7in by 10ft 3in, has double French doors to the rear garden and a feature Adam style overmantel with living flame gas fire in stainless steel surround and marble effect hearth.

The refitted kitchen, 8ft 9in by 7ft 2in, has a range of wall and base units, work surfaces, stainless steel bowl and a half sink with mixer tap, electric oven with electric oven and plumbing for dishwasher, with a door to the dining room. There is also a separate WC and utility/store.

On the first floor are two bedrooms, a box room and a bathroom with white contemporary style suite comprising vanity hand basin, double ended bath with mixer tap (with shower fitting), electric shower with rail and curtain and WC.

Outside is a sheltered patio area, steps and a lawn, and to the rear a lawned area with path, shrubs and plants. Call the Sedgley office of Taylors on 01902 880888 for details.



# DIXONS

## Estate Agents

Halesowen Office  
01214 550 7474

DoingMore...

### Cavalier Drive, Halesowen



£300,000

Detached house situated on a corner plot. Accommodation consists of ground floor - lounge, dining room, study, kitchen breakfast room, utility and WC, first floor master bedroom with en-suite, three further bedrooms and family bathroom.

### Burmese Way, Rowley Regis



£280,000

Book your viewing now to appreciate the enviable position of this detached house and also the quality/standard of work carried out internally. The property comprises modern lounge, conservatory, study, WC, re-fitted kitchen/diner, four bedrooms, en-suite, re-fitted bathroom. Rear garden, generous driveway parking and detached double garaging.



### Gower Road, Halesowen



£274,950

An extended traditional four bed detached house in an established residential area, benefiting from gas central heating and double glazing, the property offers accommodation - entrance hall, lounge, dining room, guest cloakroom, study, en-suite and family bathroom.

### Glaslyn Avenue, Rowley Regis



£230,000

A modern detached house comprising of lounge, second reception room (converted garage), kitchen/diner, WC, first floor accommodation has four bedrooms en-suite to master, family bathroom, drive and rear garden.

### Arkle Croft, Rowley Regis



£190,000

Modern detached family home with accommodation comprising of: entrance hallway, guest wc, lounge, dining room, breakfast kitchen, four bedrooms, master en-suite and bathroom. The outside offers a garage, driveway to fore, front garden and rear garden.

### Oldbury Road, Rowley Regis



£175,000

Four bedroom detached bungalow on a generous plot, kitchen, lounge, conservatory, bathroom, WC, driveway, parking, garage, double glazing, central heating (both where specified) extensive rear garden. No upward chain.

### Ross, Rowley Regis



£160,000

A modern detached bungalow comprising lounge, kitchen, bathroom, two bedrooms, front and rear gardens, drive and garage.

### Buckingham Road, Rowley Regis



£160,000

Four bedroom detached property, entrance lobby, lounge, kitchen/diner, utility, WC, en-suite to main, family bathroom, driveway, garage, front and rear gardens, central heating, double glazing (both where specified)

### Cherry Street, Halesowen



£150,000

This property must be viewed having undergone a comprehensive refurbishment - the property comprises of lounge, kitchen breakfast room, conservatory, three bedrooms, family bathroom, rear garden and drive.

### Long Lane, Halesowen



Offers Over £150,000

NEW

Extended traditional property on a substantial corner plot. The property comprises of lounge, dining room, kitchen, laundry room, WC, three bedrooms, family bathroom, front and rear gardens and drive way at the rear of Greenhill Road

### Crendon Road, Rowley Regis



£145,000

A three bedroom extended semi detached property comprising porch, hallway, extended lounge, conservatory, kitchen, dining room, utility, bathroom, double glazing and central heating (both where specified) driveway and landscaped rear garden with decking areas.

### Woolpack Close, Rowley Regis



£140,000

Detached house comprising, lounge, kitchen breakfast room, conservatory, three bedrooms, shower room, rear garden, garage and drive.

### Boundary Avenue, Rowley Regis



£130,000

Traditional property which comprises of lounge/diner, kitchen, conservatory, three bedrooms, family bathroom, rear garden and block paved drive.

### Parkfield Close, Halesowen



£125,000

Three bedroom end terraced house, porch, entrance hall, kitchen/diner, lounge, guest WC, first floor bathroom, central heating, double glazing (both where specified) no upward chain.

### Hickmans Avenue, Cradley Heath



£120,000

Traditional end terraced house comprising of lounge, kitchen/diner, three bedrooms, family bathroom, rear garden and gravel drive.

### Barrs Road, Cradley Heath



£100,000

Traditional terraced house comprising of lounge, dining room, breakfast room, kitchen, two bedrooms, family bathroom and rear garden.

### Stourdell Road, Halesowen



£90,000

NEW

Semi detached house comprising of lounge/diner, kitchen, WC, three bedrooms, family bathroom, rear garden and drive.

### Olive Lane, Halesowen



£70,000

A traditional two bedroom end terraced house in need of re-furbishment. Please call for more details!

### PUBLIC NOTICE,



£80,000

42 FURLONG LANE, HALESOWEN,  
WEST MIDLANDS, B63 2TB.

We are acting for the mortgagees and have received an offer of £72,000 on the above property. Any interested parties must submit any higher offers in writing to the selling agent before an exchange of contracts takes place.

### PUBLIC NOTICE,



£70,000

We are acting for the mortgagees and

have received an offer of £66,000 on 1

Beeches Road, Rowley Regis, West

Midlands, B65 0BB. Any interested parties

must submit any higher offers in

writing to the selling agent before ex-

change of contracts takes place.

### Hill Top Avenue, Halesowen



£70,000

NEW

A three bedroom terraced house comprising of lounge, kitchen breakfast room, bathroom, with front and rear gardens and potential for off road parking to front. ( subject to necessary permission)



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# MOTERING NEWS AND REVIEWS CHRONICLE MOTERING

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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

## Trends shift in first car ownership



The Mini Cooper – a firm favourite at No 10

**MANY young motorists now rely on their parents to fork out for their first car, according to a survey.**

In the 1960s, around 80 per cent of first-time car owners funded their purchase themselves, according to the poll by insurance company Aviva.

But now around a third of first cars are paid for by someone else, most likely by

mothers and fathers or other family members. The recent reliance on the bank of mum and dad comes despite the fact that the average age to buy a first car is now 25, compared with 21 in the 1960s.

But today's drivers are much more likely (26 per cent) to have a new car as their first motor than in the 1960s (eight per cent), when nearly everyone cut their motoring teeth on secondhand models. In the 1960s, only six per cent of first-time car owners

had their motor insurance paid for by someone else, while now the figure is as high as 21 per cent.

The poll also showed that the most popular first car of the last 50 years was the Ford Escort, followed by the Ford Fiesta, Ford Anglia and Vauxhall Corsa.

Aviva marketing director Heather Smith says: "Owning a first car is a fantastic milestone of independence and whether it's a much-loved treasure or a shiny new

set of wheels, it provides an important rite of passage for any driver. Over the past five decades, we have seen a fundamental shift in the typical first car owner.

"However, despite these changes, the nation's love for affordable classics, from Corsas to Golfs, Fords have stayed at the forefront in the history of the first car and feature as firm favourites across Britain's driveways." These were the top 10 most first-car models:

1. Ford Escort
2. Ford Fiesta
3. Ford Anglia
4. Vauxhall Corsa
5. Nissan Micra
6. Vauxhall Viva
7. Morris Minor
8. Volkswagen Golf
9. Renault Clio
10. Mini Cooper



Ford takes the first three places, pictured is the Anglia



In at No7 is the old favourite Morris Minor



At No2 is another of the Fords, the Fiesta

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## September Stock Clearance

Due to our successful '62 reg launch, we now have a large stock of quality, low mileage part exchanges that must be sold this weekend!

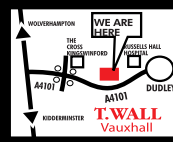
Example

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(09065 cost £1.53p/m)

**ANNE** 30's employed female with OHAC, seeking male to put some much needed fun and passion back in to my life.

**STEVEN**, tall, medium build, loving, seeks female for companionship, nights in and out.

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(T&C's below)

**CARLA** 41, brown hair/eyes, 5ft 2ins, loving, seeking male who likes walks, cinema and romantic meals. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396127 ♀

**Hi I'm** Mariiyn a blue eyed beauty. Call me if you have a happy outlook and are seeking some fun. Age/looks unimportant. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395665 ♀

**CATHY** is a slim attractive lady with an open minded attitude to life, she WLTM a man of any age. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395657 ♀

**I'M** Julie 36yrs old, attractive, fit, blonde, solvent with OHAC seeking man to spoil and enjoy good times with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395051 ♀

**BLONDE** attractive educated lady 50, young minded, seeks professional tall male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391818 ♀

**BIG** bubbly black female, single mum, looking for male for nights in and out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392501 ♀

**LADY** widow, 58, slim, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks smart, intelligent, easygoing man with GSOH who enjoys conversations, days out, short breaks, meals out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387247 ♀

**SALLY** slim attractive feisty redhead, intelligent, easygoing, WLTM similar male for friendship and more, looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393469 ♀

**WIDOW** 70, genuine, kind, caring, laidback, seeking male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387013 ♀

**EASYGOING** down to earth female, likes cooking, exploring new things in life, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386893 ♀

**LADY** young 60, outgoing, friendly, smart, likes cinema, shopping, meals out, seeks similar female friends for days out and evenings. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387117 ♀

**39YR** old single female, hurt in past, animal lover, likes most things, seeking genuine man for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386887 ♀

**CLARE** good looking, beautiful blonde, seeks male for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378209 ♀

**LOUISE** 43, 5ft 5ins, medium build, GSOH, kind, caring, honest, genuine, loving, WLTM male, 43-55 with similar qualities for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 376165 ♀

**MANDY** 36, size 10, looking for relationship with open-minded man. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 360317 ♀

**ALICIA** 19yr old green eyed female, very attractive, slim, long hair, independent, looking for fun with mature male, no time wasters. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 390059 ♀

**CHRIS** attractive slim sophisticated redhead, seeking male 30-50's to relax with and get to know. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392401 ♀

**SAMANTHA** pretty brunette, very busty 36, intelligent, independent with a really lusty life, seeks big hearted stocky male/dad. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395035 ♀

**YVONNE** lonely 32yr old single mum of one, slim, brown hair, WLTM discreet male for mutual attention without complications. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395027 ♀

**JAN** lonely divorced female with older children looking for male for mature/adult companionship without ties. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394663 ♀

**SARAH** nice looking blue eyed slim brunette, WLTM similar lonely male for fun times hopefully leading to tir. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394575 ♀

**MADDIE** extremely passionate female 37, seeks reliable male to enjoy the finer things in life and facilitate relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394565 ♀

**PAULINE** divorced female on the wrong side of 40 looking for adult fun with easygoing highly driven man if you get my drift? Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394463 ♀

**SLIM** male, seeks lady 35-45, size 12-18, GSOH for friendship, possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394591 ♀

**ANNA** 29yr old nurse, 6ft curvy auburn beauty, likes cosy nights in, genuinely seeking a well built male to look after. 40-60yrs. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375139 ♀

**SARAH** 38, slim, nice looking, tactile, no ties, WLTM kind, loving male to enjoy affectionate relationship. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378483 ♀

**PAULINE** attractive petite nurse, loves evenings in/out, looking for honest male to share loving friendship and good times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 379535 ♀

**SARAH** 23, attractive, brunette, slim, looking for male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392979 ♀

**KAREN** witty female who loves to laugh, WLTM similar interests romance, cosy nights in and more. Pls call. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393125 ♀

**CARING** lady, 52, brown hair/eyes, seeks male, 30-60 for socialising, meals out, cinema, music, sports and having a laugh. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392883 ♀

**FARMER'S** granddaughter, OHAC, stunningly attractive, respectable, sincere, WLTM countryman/bachelor, 48-62, 5ft 9ins plus, genuine, uncomplicated with GSOH and TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387204 ♀

**SUSIE** gorgeously feminine and sensual, loves lazy summer days, misses male who's companionship WLTM someone with sense of adventure and lust for life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394117 ♀

**LOUISE** youthful looking female looking for spontaneous male to put some love and lust back into life. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392491 ♀

**HOME** alone with no one to call my own! 38yr old girl looking for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 363277 ♀

**STACEY** young 20yr old looking for fun. Call me to find out more. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 382091 ♀

**JANE** 46, single mum, N/S, romantic, likes dancing, nights out, slim, seeking male, 40-50 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 380591 ♀

**CURVY** red haired female, been hurt in the past seeks older male to buy her flowers and mend her broken heart. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 377432 ♀

**FUN** loving lady, outgoing, honest, caring, likes socialising, seeking fun 50-70. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383325 ♀

**BUBBLY** female, 42, young at heart, honest, caring, likes outdoors, cinema, theatre, meals out, seeks likeminded male/soul mate, 40-50. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 357919 ♀

**42YR** old Sagittarian 5ft 7ins, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks genuine, caring guy interested in films, meals out, country walks, gardening and travel, 45-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 358399 ♀

**JESSIE** single mum 24 looking for her Mr Right for equally respectful relationship, hopefully blossoming into love. Single dads welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 382087 ♀

**JOY** 36 petite medium build, blue eyes, loves romantic walks, meals in/out, WLTM male 30-45 for meals. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386629 ♀

**LYNN** 37 single mum, petite slim and very pretty, seeking caring funny guy to be with and become my Mr Wonderful. Dads welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386633 ♀

**MORAG** 21yr old attractive dark haired student nurse, new to area and very lonely seeks mature male for mutual companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391087 ♀

**JENNY** blue eyed cuddly independent female, loves countryside, animals, cooking, WLTM older male to spoil and look after. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378481 ♀

**MAUREEN** seeks male 32-45 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 323453 ♀

**SLIM** professional, attractive, amiable lady, seeks genuine, articulate, professional gent, 55 plus with GSOH, who enjoys the good things in life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 386615 ♀

**33YR** old black haired, medium built, 5ft 3ins female seeking soul mate. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 389799 ♀

**MARIA** 38, blonde, 5ft 5ins, caring, likes nights in/out, seeks caring male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392319 ♀

**NATALIE** 30, attractive, size 12, black, seeking male for romantic fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 387753 ♀

**SINGLE** mum, 36, 2 children, seeks fun loving male with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 382595 ♀

**GENUINE** female, 36, brunette, blue eyes, 5ft 7ins, fun, outgoing, adventurous, GSOH, looking for tall, honest, genuine male for good companion, dates and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388327 ♀

**SHAPELY** attractive, light skinned black female, 39, seeks attractive, fit, male, 30's, builder type, tanned, rugged for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 231152 ♀

**POLLY** dark hair, 50, attractive, outgoing, seeks special outgoing male for days out etc. Telford. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 371127 ♀

**BLONDE** tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 384852 ♀

**LOVING** caring young 67yr old female, 5ft 2ins, slim size 12, brown hair, likes meals out, GSOH, smoker, seeks slim, smart male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 364651 ♀

**SUE** 5ft 2ins female, brown hair/eyes, loving, likes music, socialising, films, good times, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393223 ♀

**VICKY** honest caring female 33yrs, GSOH, loves meals in/out, travel, cinema, WLTM someone to enjoy nice things in life with and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 383911 ♀

**DENISE** tall leggy good looking single mum, easygoing, enjoys nights in/out, animals, WLTM tall male for fun times possibly more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391873 ♀

**SLIM** 32yr old blonde, kind, caring, good listener, honest, likes to have fun, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393973 ♀

**YVONNE** looking for Christian male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391135 ♀

**MADLINE** 5ft black seeks male 26-41 with GSOH for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 375789 ♀

**IRENE** 55, blonde hair, brown eyes, loving, caring, genuine, N/S, lots of love to give, seeks male, 55-60 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392807 ♀

**HELEN** 34yr old single mum slim intelligent, seeks nice male for adult companionship with good potential for a great relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394121 ♀

**PATRICIA** 5ft 5ins, red hair, blue eyes, likes nights out, meals, clubs, seeking nice young man who is kind, generous to look after me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 378207 ♀

**ATTRACTIVE** slim blonde, 45, seeks honest, caring, genuine male, 45-55 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394651 ♀

**NICKY** looking for attractive male 48-55yrs for fun, good times and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 388393 ♀

**50YR** old female, seeks male for fun and socialising. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 233580 ♀

**KIND** loving lady 43, slight disability, seeks genuine male for romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391863 ♀

**JANICE** attractive female, 50, size 12-14, seeks younger gent, 40-50 for fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 376115 ♀

**KATHY** caring lady 60, medium build, smoker, seeks caring, smart, male 55-65 for companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 374773 ♀

**BETTY** fuller figured black female, 26, body confident, affectionate, WLTM older chocolate loving male for daytime meets. Any status. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 377511 ♀

**SLIM** attractive, self sufficient lady, 44, GSOH, seeks special male, 35-50 to share evening in/out, theatre, possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 351813 ♀

**FEMALE** kind, giving, thoughtful, sensitive, seeks lifetime friend to love and understand me for who I am. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 350397 ♀

**FRIENDLY** black female, attractive, 46, single mum, professional, seeks attractive, solvent, trendy, professional, genuine male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 349885 ♀

**LADY** 76, N/S, caring, respectable, WLTM gentleman, 70-76 for outings, holidays, day trips and friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 340021 ♀

**ATTRACTIVE** glamorous, black female, young 44, seeks male for friendship/dating and LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393799 ♀

**WIDOWED** female, 65, likes socialising, holidays, meals out, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 339765 ♀

**OUTGOING** sociable young female, 33, average looks, likes pubs, clubs, bowling, cinema, seeks gent, 33-45. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 362768 ♀

**FEMALE** likes meals out, cinema, nights in, seeks male for fun and friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 361871 ♀

**72YR** old widower, smart, likes travel, conversation, dancing, cooking, missing that special man in her life who is easygoing and N/S. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 349265 ♀

**ATTRACTIVE** Tall, black female, 51, 6ft, slim-medium build, kind, honest, considerate, own home, seeks genuine, tall, faithful, 6ft plus male, 45-70 with own home for serious relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 349211 ♀

Ladies Text n' Chat. Text in now and chat to local people. Send : CHAT207 To : 65125.

(T&C's below)

**PATRICK** 60's, single, sensual, likes sports, music, reading, seeks lady friend to share evenings/weekend meetings together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396053 ♀

**39YR** old single dad, likes cosy nights in, seeks single, slim lady for fun relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 396061 ♀

**CLIVE** 46, seeking hot chick for plenty of action. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392772 ♀

**JOSEPH** 40 tall, GSOH, seeks female, 26-48 for fun and relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394103 ♀

**MATURE** gent, honest, sincere WLTM mature lady, 70-80 for long term friendship, honesty more important than looks. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392551 ♀

**GOOD** looking male, brown hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, seeks female for relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392092 ♀

**HONEST** loyal male, 64, seeks lady for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393759 ♀

**DAVE** 47, well built, divorced, 2 children, WLTM lady of similar age for LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393789 ♀

**A** really nice divorced gent, late 40's, 6ft 1ins, fair hair, kind, caring, romantic, GSOH, seeks lady for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392474 ♀

**38YR** old slim, genuine male, GSOH, seeks female, 40-55 to enjoy life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392330 ♀

**DUNCAN** 43, attractive, honest, sincere, looking for attractive lady for friendship/companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392328 ♀

**DON** 55, 5ft 6ins, brown hair, blue eyes, seeks lady, any age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392100 ♀

**TALL** good looking guy 48, smart, friendly, GSOH, seeks female for fun only friendship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394229 ♀

**CHRIS** GSOH, loving, loyal, likes walks, music, seeks female to love and treat well. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392320 ♀

**MATTHEW** 5ft 3ins, medium build, good body, seeking fit female for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393743 ♀

**CHRIS** GSOH, loving, loyal, likes walks, music, seeks female to love and treat well. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392320 ♀

**JOHN** seeking dominant male to bring out my feminine side. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394705 ♀

**SINGLE** dad, young 39, likes keep fit, walks, seeks slim lady, any age for fun, hopeful relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395747 ♀

**MALE** 6ft, slim, easy going, kind, caring, seeks female, 70-79 for friendship, days out, walks and holidays. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395447 ♀

**STEVE** 59, seeks attractive lady for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395397 ♀

**WHITE** male, 48, medium build, blue eyes, seeks female, any age/looks for adult fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395177 ♀

**ANDREW** 50, looking for female for fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 395163 ♀

**SEAN** 45, caring, kind, loving, animal lover, seeks female with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394149 ♀

**LOOKING** for love, young 62yr old N/S male, 5ft 9ins, blue eyes, sincere, genuine, OHAC, seeks N/S lady with no ties. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394017 ♀

**TIGER** Woods local/like, seeks big beautiful woman for fun and games. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393737 ♀

**MALE** 70's widow, kind, honest, caring, likes socialising, holidays, nights in/out, seeks loving female for respectful, caring relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393559 ♀

**GOOD** looking 48yr old male, GSOH, honest, caring, loyal, hurt in past, looking for loving female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 394159 ♀

**PROFESSIONAL** male, 42, hurt in past, seeks female, 32-40. Single mum welcome. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392769 ♀

**NAUGHTY** 40 something, tall, smart, GSOH, seeks lady for rainy days and Sundays. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392665 ♀

**TOM** 62, fit, likes tennis, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392659 ♀

**MALE** 38, seeks female, any age for daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392645 ♀

**GOOD** looking 39yr old male, likes pubs, music, walks, swimming, seeks nice female. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392943 ♀

**51YR** old male, 6ft, dark hair, single parent, likes most things, sports, seeks slim, honest, caring female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392933 ♀

**DARK** handsome male, Tiger Woods local/like, seeking BBW. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392179 ♀

**DUNCAN** 43, attractive, honest, sincere, looking for attractive lady for friendship/companionship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 392328 ♀

**60'S M** male, West Midlands, WLTM local lady for weekend fun/dates. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393303 ♀

**SINGLE** male, 58, good looking, loyal, caring, no ties, seeks mature, similar female to become soul mates. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 393201 ♀

**55YR** old male, slim, seeks lady, any age for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391172 ♀

**FIT** black guy, 66, looks 40, seeks N/S lady, 60-70 with GSOH, genuine, caring to share fun and LTR. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 391427 ♀

## GAY SINGLES



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## Lacklustre Tipton are outpaced by Sphinx

**Tipton Tn 1 Coventry Sphinx 3**  
TIPTON turned in a lacklustre performance against Midland Alliance rivals Coventry Sphinx.

It was a major disappointment after their valiant midweek effort against the Walsall youngsters in the Birmingham Senior Cup, to whom they lost by one goal.

Tipton began brightly in the opening minute, Matt Martin's finely-weighted chip into the opposing penalty area finding Karl Edwards. But his effort was blocked by Ashley Jackson.

Sphinx took the lead in the 29th minute when Jackson cleverly fooled the home defence by driving a free-kick just inside Tipton keeper Neil Page's left-hand post.

The home side's woes were further compounded in the 35th minute when smart play by the visitors spread-eagled the Tipton defence, leaving Tom Muldoon the simple task of stroking home Tunde Ajabade's inch-perfect cross.

Jack Taylor's rising drive made it three in the 54th minute. Karl Edwards netted a consolation.

## Tividale are saved from Cup shock

**Wolverhampton Casuals 1 Tividale 1**

A BRILLIANT goal late in the second half by substitute James Cooper saved Tividale from an FA Cup shock.

The Midland Alliance side threatened the home goal as Avan Jephcott just failed to make contact with a Kyle Hill cross.

Casuals replied as Lee Butler had a goal ruled out for offside and moments later Tom Maydew forced a good save from Tividale keeper Tim Beech.

Casuals rocked the visitors by taking the lead on the stroke of half-time. Dean Clarke latched onto a throw-in and then went unchallenged across the area to unleash a tremendous left-footer past Beech.

Kyle Brady was unlucky when his header hit the Casuals' bar and then minutes later missed an easy chance close to goal.

However Tividale's pressure paid off in the 82nd minute as substitute Cooper volleyed home.

# Hawks East leave North out in the cold

**Halas Hawks East U9 5 Halas Hawks North U9 0**

HALAS Hawks East under-nines ran out five-goal winners against club rivals Halas Hawks North in the opening match of the season.

Goal scorers were Ethan Daly (2), Connor Chater, Brandon Hale and Luke Nock. Man of the match for the East was Luke Nock.

**Halas Hawks West U9 2 West Hagley South U9 1**

The under-nines West had a well-deserved 2-1 win over West Hagley South. Joe Gould got the opening goal after latching on to a short kick by the visiting keeper.

Halas continued to dominate, but the visitors equalised against the run of play. Halas quickly replied with Kyle Winwood breaking up a West Hagley attack to play in man-of-the-match Jack Blake-way who slotted the ball home in his club debut.

**Halas Hawks West U10 2 Halesowen Town Whites U10 1**

Halas Hawks West under-10s got off to a winning start to the season, coming from a goal down to beat Halesowen Town Whites 2-1.

Both goals came from Harvey Brookes and man of the match went to George Priest.

## Halas Hawks

**Halas Hawks East U10 2 Stourbridge Glassboys U10 3**

The under-10s East played host to Stourbridge Glassboys and, although losing 3-2, put on an excellent performance.

After going 2-0 down at half-time the Halas lads dug deep and brought the game back to 2-2 through Tommy Swancott and Jack Whitehouse.

However, a momentary lapse of concentration in the last minutes saw the Glassboys take all the

points from what should have been a deserved draw.

Man of the match went to Tommy Swancott.

**Halas Hawks U14 1 Quinton Eagles U14 7**

The under-14s started the season in disappointing fashion with a heavy defeat to Quinton Eagles.

Their consolation goal came from Harry Clements and man of the match was awarded to goalie Aaron Blount.

**Halas Hawks U15 1 Kewford Eagles South U15 1**

The under-15s met Kewford

Eagles South who took the lead early on. But Halas battled back and managed to level the scores in the second half through Liam Holmes, who was also awarded man of the match.

**Halas Hawks U18 1 Withymoor U18 2**

A disappointing afternoon saw the under-18s struggle against Withymoor.

With neither side producing many chances, it was Withymoor who took the lead. Joe Powell's solo effort earned a Halas equaliser but Withymoor scored a late winner to take all three points.

## Win gives Old Hill chance to beat drop

**Old Hill 250-7, Kenilworth Warden 119. Old Hill won by 131 runs**

OLD HILL gave themselves a chance of dodging the drop from Birmingham League Division One with this victory.

They started superbly, putting 122 on the board before losing Nitesh Patel (72). Mike Hingley (56) then fell at the 146 mark.

Old Hill pushed the score on to 175 before Jack Shanthy (38) became a casualty. However, Dimitri Ratnayake came through and scored a very useful 52 not out to allow Old Hill to reach 250-7 off their 55 overs.

The visitors made a dreadful start with 21-4.

But they rallied with a stand of 49 runs for the fifth wicket. However, Old Hill pushed again and Kenilworth were dismissed for 119 with Ratnayake (3-20), Seb Soukup (2-27), Jack Shanthy (2-35) and Nigel Davenport (3-15) sharing the wickets.

The final match is at Whitechurch (noon).

**Shrewsbury 241-8, Old Hill 195.**

Shrewsbury won by 46 runs. Old Hill seconds began well at Shrewsbury.

They had the home team 42-3, but some excellent middle-order batting took Shrewsbury to 178 before they lost another wicket as Chris Sheperd made 75 and Stewart Black 65.

Shrewsbury finished on 241-8. Oliver Moseley taking 3-41 and Omar Lewis 2-27. Old Hill moved on to a total of 147-4. But five wickets fell for the addition of just 13 more runs and they were all out for 195.

The seconds host Walsall at 12.30pm on Saturday.

## Mills a boon, but Bs beaten

**Wellington 2 Bustleholme 1**  
BUSTLEHOLME controlled the game in the early stages and took the lead.

Darrell Francis's effort was cleared off the line for striker Jem Mills to put in the rebound.

Wellington then had two efforts cleared off the line.

Then Bustleholme failed to clear a hopeful ball which ended with Craig Skeldon upending Andy Price in the box. Tom McClean gave Bs keeper Luke Stevens no chance with the spot-kick.

Wellington won all three points with Josh James' goal three minutes from time.

**West Bromwich Dartmouth 208, Knowle & Dorridge 212-2.**

Knowle & Dorridge won by eight wickets. WEST BROMWICH DARTMOUTH revived after a poor start, but were still well beaten by Knowle & Dorridge.

After recent poor batting performances Dartmouth feared the worst when, after being put in, they found themselves struggling with three wickets down for just 18.

Nav Poonia began a recovery with 49 and Ateeq Javid showed a welcome return to form with a chanceless 74.

Veteran Naheem Sajjad chipped in with a breezy 38 to see Dartmouth to 208 all out in this Birmingham League Premier encounter.

It was not enough as the Knowle & Dorridge batsmen reached 212 for the loss of just two wickets. Ex-Warwickshire star David Hemp led the way with 94.

**West Bromwich Dartmouth 234-5, Water Orton 161-8.**

Draw  
Dartmouth seconds got the better of a drawn match with Water Orton at Sandwell Park.

Amit John led the way with 64 and he received good support from the consistent Hiran Dhoolab (37) and Shaun Roberts (33) as Dartmouth reached 234-5.

Water Orton managed 161-8 in reply with three wickets for Mitesh Patel and two each for Mohin Khan and Delvin King.

**West Bromwich Dartmouth 233-4, Walsall YPF 164. Dartmouth won by 69 runs**

Kiran Patel was the Dartmouth star as the third team took a good victory.

Patel scored an unbeaten 118 in Dartmouth's total of 233-4. Walsall YPF did well to reach 164 all out as none

## West Bromwich Dartmouth CC

of the first nine batsmen reached double figures.

No.10 Shehzad Tahseen made 31 not out and last man Rafa Singh hit 51.

For Dartmouth, there were four wickets for Aaron Patel and three each for Prabot Singh and Gurbhuj Singh.

**Wightwick & Finchfield 94, West Bromwich Dartmouth 95-1. Dartmouth won by nine wickets**

Dartmouth fourths had an emphatic nine-wicket win against Wightwick & Finchfield.

Hassan Farooque claimed 3-1 as Wightwick were bowled out for 94. Najuf Ikhlag was not out on 53 as Dartmouth eased to 95-1.

On Saturday, Dartmouth's four teams play their final matches of the season.

The firsts host Wolverhampton at Sandwell Park. The seconds travel to Shifnal. The thirds are at home to Highcroft and Great Barr while the fourths visit Himley.

## Thirds get hands on end-of-season silverware



Wednesbury's thirds display the fruits of their labours after winning the Staffordshire Clubs tournament

WEDNESBURY's thirds turned on the style to bag some end of season silverware.

Kaiser Hussain led the way with the ball as Wednesbury beat Beacon to lift

the Staffordshire Clubs third team knockout.

Hussain bagged 3-16 to help restrict Beacon to 109-7 from their 20 overs. That total failed to trouble

Wednesbury as they eased home by eight wickets with over four overs to spare. Nick Banks top-scored with an unbeaten 35 while Sean Rowe struck 32.



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# SPORT

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Wednesbury put  
out the Beacon  
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**Daly double**  
Ethan strikes twice in  
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**Sponsor  
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for rider**

A TEENAGE Halesowen racing motorcyclist's season has been saved.

Bradley Hughes was resigned to stepping down from the 125cc Monster Energy championship and cup competition when his major sponsor pulled out after the Cadwell Park round.

But the 15-year-old was handed a lifeline by Replacast Racing.

Hughes had to sit out the Donington Park round – but was so determined to find support that he got a lift to the circuit and put a message on Facebook.

Then Replacast boss Gary Dawson stepped in. The Yorkshire firm supply all manner of motorcycle racing products, including fairings and other bodywork – but also run their own team.

Now Dawson is putting Hughes out on a Replacast Racing bike for the last three rounds of competition, a support class to the British Superbike championship.

A delighted Hughes said: "After crashing out of the race at Cadwell Park, the team was disappointed to come home to some awful news. We had been told that my dad had lost his job and I had lost a sponsor."

Hughes is still seeking funds for the final three races. Supporters can visit <http://www.gofundme.com/164arc> where donations can be made.

**Bears roaring  
to CB40 final**

WARWICKSHIRE chief Ashley Giles today insisted the Bears' county championship party is over as they set their sights on ending the summer in style.

Just days after clinching the title, Jim Troughton's men are turning their attentions to Saturday's CB40 final against Hampshire at Lord's with the Bears targeting their first double trophy season for 17 years.

And director of cricket Giles said: "We have done half a job and that's the way we've got to view it now."

"We've won the championship and that's great – but we have the other one lingering in the background and it's been hard work."

"The CB40 has run season-long and we've got an opportunity to do the double, which would be a terrific achievement by Jim and the team because they have worked really hard."

## Yeltz cannot find a way to break stalemate

HALESOWEN'S first clean sheet of the season earned a share of the Evo-Stik Division One South points in a stalemate against in-form Newcastle.

Luke Corbett made his Yeltz debut up front partnering leading scorer Ben Haseley but it was Haseley who supplied the two best first-half chances for Jean-Michel Gueyes.

Gueyes was set clear on goal from midfield after eight minutes by Haseley's clever flick, but after a long run he was driven wide by goalkeeper Dave Parton and the chance went begging. Haseley's neat footwork then

**Halesowen Town 0 Newcastle Town 0**

allowed him to cross superbly in the 39th minute, but the ball ran across an empty goal before Gueyes blazed the loose ball over the bar.

Visiting goalkeeper Dave Parton raced out of goal to beat Haseley to the ball on several occasions as the Yeltz played long balls forward for the prolific striker.

Newcastle also enjoyed their fair share of possession and home goalkeeper Paul Evans produced a fine 17th-minute save to keep

out a goal-bound header from Andy Nicholls.

Seconds before the interval Nicholls then netted a rebound after Evans parried Neville Thompson's shot, but his effort was disallowed for offside.

There were fewer chances during the second half, although Craig Milligan tried his luck with two long-range shots for Halesowen.

With the game drifting towards stale-

mate, Nicholls chipped just wide of the Yeltz goal with 10 minutes remaining as the visitors threatened.

Haseley's last-minute overhead kick was collected by Parton with Halesowen failing to score for the first time this season.

**Halesowen Town:** P Evans; Lycett, Gaines, S. Brooks, Drake, Milligan, Steane (D Evans 86), Barnfield, Corbett, Haseley, Gueyes. Subs not used: Griffin, Oatley, W Brooks, Flower.

**Newcastle Town:** Parton; Askey, Bayley, Bratt, Carter, Whalley (Ashman 64), Diskin (Haynes 85), Blackhurst, Thompson, Nicholls, Harrison (Price 76). Subs not used: Twigg, Turner.

**Referee:** Andy Newbold (Loughborough). **Attendance:** 222.

**Dream of  
Cup still  
lives for  
Tividale**

**Tividale 4**

**Wolverhampton Casuals 2**  
TIVIDALE fought off a brave battle by Wolverhampton Casuals to book a place in the FA Cup second preliminary round.

But their replay triumph on Tuesday night was not without drama as Casuals mounted a second-half fight-back.

The Midland Alliance side took a fourth-minute lead, Richard Taylor putting the finishing touch to a free-kick from just outside the area.

Casuals went close in the 10th minute when John Cordy forced a good save from Lloyd Evans after Jonathan Aldridge's shot bounced back off the bar.

Play was pretty even until Brett Clark made it 2-0 to Tividale in the 34th minute, coolly slotting home a James Cooper low cross.

Tividale's third goal came in the 40th minute when Kyle Brady beat the offside trap to square the ball across the area for Taylor to claim his second goal of the game.

Casuals were a different proposition in the second half as they took the game to the hosts. On 61 minutes Mark Bellingham superbly headed home a well-taken free-kick by Lee Butler to make it 3-1.

A minute later Tividale were reduced to 10 men with Avun Jephcott sent off for a second yellow card.

Casuals were back in the game when Bellingham made it 3-2 from the spot.

Kyle Hill restored Tividale's two-goal advantage with a fine solo goal to make it 4-2 in the 85th minute.

Tividale face Hinckley Utd away in the next round on September 22.

## BROOKES' SURPRISE AT CUNNINGTON EXIT

**HALESOWEN chairman Colin Brookes today admitted a lack of backing from fans could have convinced Shaun Cunningham to quit.**

Former boss Cunningham walked away from The Grove on Tuesday – despite Brookes' attempts to talk him out of resigning.

Cunningham's No.2 Paul Tomlinson followed him, with Brookes now in charge for Saturday's FA Trophy match.

Halesowen are third in Northern League Division One South, but were put out of the FA Cup 2-1 by Dudley and Brookes felt Cunningham may have quit because of lack of support.

He said: "Shaun might have thought: 'Am I on a loser here?'"

"Unfortunately, he decided over the weekend enough was enough and there was no going back."

**Backlash**

"There was a bit of a backlash (from fans) because of three poor results at home."

"There was expectation at the start of the season, there always is, but the big one was the FA Cup."

"We had nearly 300 people and you could hear a murmuring then and we lost 5-1 to Coalville last week."

"There have been lots of individual mistakes, but what can the manager do about that?"

The club will now look to make a quick appointment and expect a large amount of interest.

Brookes said: "We're not going to advertise for it, we don't think we'll need to."

**by Nick Mashiter**

"But the end of the week or next week we'll hopefully have all the applicants we want and then we'll sift through them."

"Sooner rather than later, we'll have a new manager in."

"I'll go through the applications and then put them before a selection committee."

"We'll go through it properly – if they want privacy, they will get it."

"It's something I never look forward to, all the managers at Halesowen have worked hard and none more so than Shaun and Paul."

Brookes has been in charge several times at Halesowen and will be assisted by captain Neil Barnfield and physio Pete Denham as they start on Saturday at Biggleswade.

"The skipper is going to help me and the physio too, they are two good people."

"They'll do the coaching and the training because I don't think a 70-year-old would look very good in a tracksuit."

**Biddlecombe puts in the boot**

WEDNESBURY opened their Midlands Three West (North) rugby campaign with a hard-fought 35-20 home victory against Cleobury Mortimer.

Nick Biddlecombe scored 30 points through seven penalties, two conversions and a try.

**Tears turn to cheers as Jordanne wins bronze**

IT was a case of tears to cheers for Halesowen's Jordanne Whiley after she bounced back from semi-final heartbreak to claim wheelchair tennis doubles bronze at the Paralympic Games.

Whiley and partner Lucy Shuker were inconsolable after seeing their golden dreams ended by Aniek van Koot and Jiske Griffioen of the Netherlands.

But Whiley, and Shuker returned to seek the consolation of a bronze medal against Sakthorn Khanthasit and Ratana Techameewat of Thailand.

Despite losing the first set and slipping to a 3-0 deficit and match point down in the second, the British duo battled back to win a dramatic match 7-6, 6-7, 3-6.

"I just can't believe that we have won, it just hasn't hit me yet. It was such hard work and it's such a relief," said the 20-year-old.

"During the morning I was still a bit down and at a set and 3-0 down I knew I needed to snap out of it and I'm so proud of myself that I did. I actually thought about that on court and I thought if I go home without a medal how will I feel? I didn't like the feeling so I turned it around."

"There wasn't a doubt in my mind that we weren't going to win it, even at match point."

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Jordanne Whiley, left, celebrates victory with her doubles partner Lucy Shuker

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